

Theseus and the Minotaur

Ancient Greek

The Minotaur was a terrible monster, half man and half bull. It lived in some tunnels under the King of Crete's palace. Every year, the King gave the Minotaur seven boys and seven girls from Athens to eat.

Theseus, a prince of Athens, decided to kill the Minotaur. He sailed to Crete, where Princess Ariadne fell in love with him. She gave him a dagger and a ball of string to help him in his quest.

Theseus went into the underground tunnels, unwinding the string as he went. He found the Minotaur in the centre and, after a terrible fight, killed it with his dagger.

After slaying the monster, Theseus followed the string back to the entrance, where Ariadne was waiting for him.

1. What was unusual about the Minotaur?

2. What did Theseus decide to do and why did Ariadne offer to help him?

3. How did Ariadne help Theseus?
