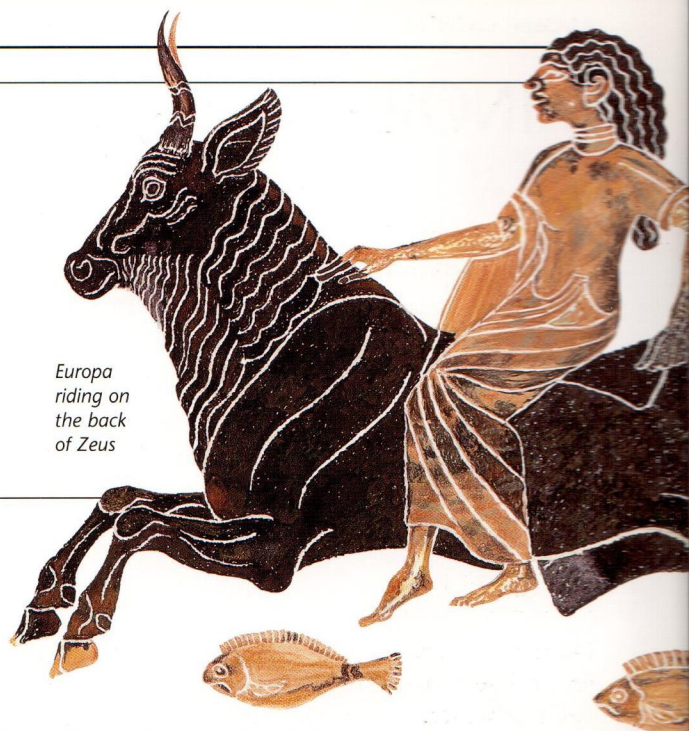


THE LEGEND OF MINOS

According to Greek legend, the god Zeus fell in love with a beautiful princess called Europa. Zeus turned himself into the shape of a bull and swam to Crete with her on his back. One of their three sons, Minos, became the King of Crete. Although Minos was the name of the king in the legend, scholars think *Minos* may have been a Cretan title for all kings, like the Egyptian word *Pharaoh*.



Europa riding on the back of Zeus

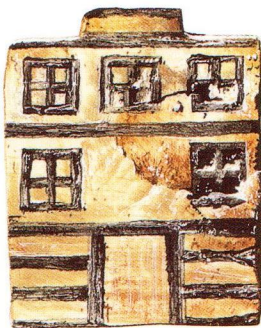


INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can see Minoan pottery, paintings and jewels, and explore an interactive map about trade, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

MINOAN HOUSES

At the heart of Minoan life was the palace, where the royal family lived. Courtiers and people who worked at the palace also lived there, but most people would have lived in houses outside the palace grounds. The storage and cooking areas were downstairs, with the living and sleeping areas above.



This model house, found at the palace at Knossos, is made of faience (glazed earthenware). It shows what Minoan town houses probably looked like.

DATING THE EVIDENCE

Archaeologists sometimes use information from other cultures to help them date newly excavated sites. Minoan pots had been found in Egypt, long before any major sites were found on Crete. So, when similar pots were eventually discovered on Crete, experts were able to date them according to the Egyptian finds.



This Minoan jar, dated 1450-1400BC, was dug up in Knossos.

