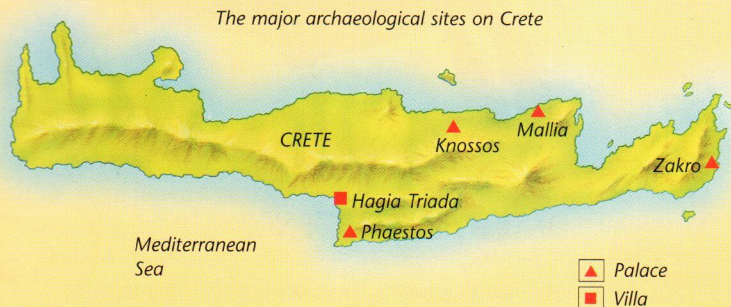


# MINOAN PALACES

Around 2000BC, the Minoans built several large palaces, each with its own king and royal family. These remained the focus of their communities and their way of life until around 1700BC, when disaster struck the island and the palaces were destroyed by a series of earthquakes. The Minoans remained undeterred, however, and built new, even grander, palaces right on top of the ruins of the old ones.



## FRESCOES

Each palace had apartments set aside for its royal family. These were spacious rooms decorated with wall paintings known as frescoes, made by applying paint to wet plaster. The frescoes at Knossos have given archaeologists lots of valuable information about Minoan life. Most of the frescoes you can see there today, however, are actually modern reconstructions.



### INTERNET LINK

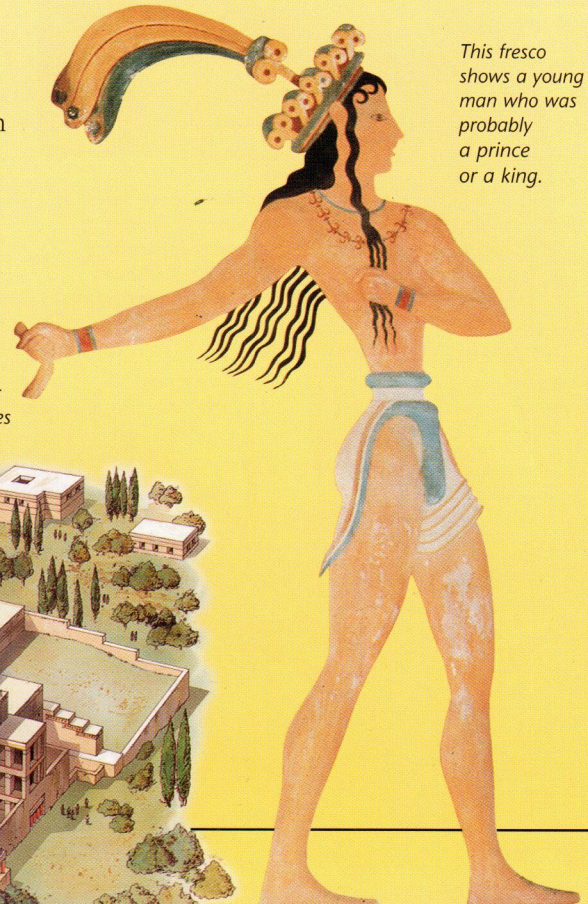
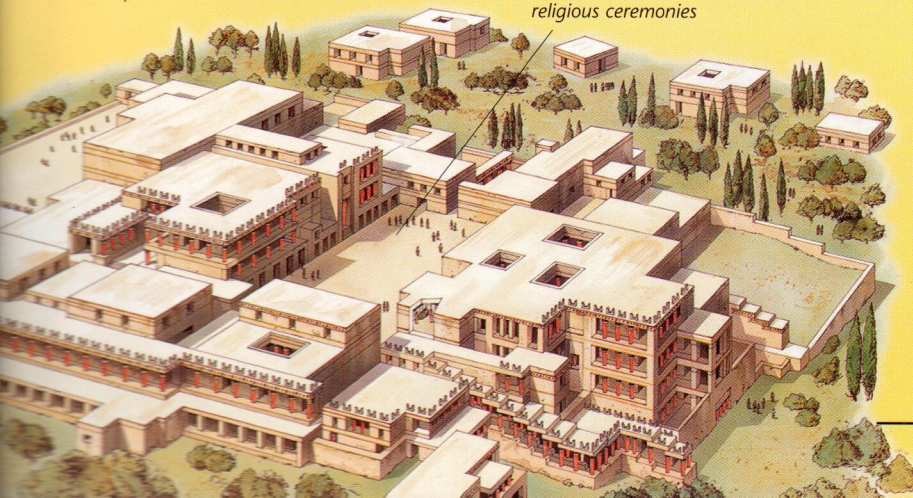
For a link to a website where you can go on a virtual tour of the palace of Knossos, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

## KNOSSOS

The largest of the Minoan palaces was at Knossos, which was built and rebuilt several times. The walls were mainly stone, with wooden roofs, ceilings and doors. The design of the palace was light and airy, with a good drainage system, and it was decorated with bulls' horns – which appear to have been a Minoan religious symbol. At its height, over 30,000 people may have lived in Knossos and surrounding areas.

The palace at Knossos

Courtyard used for religious ceremonies



This fresco shows a young man who was probably a prince or a king.