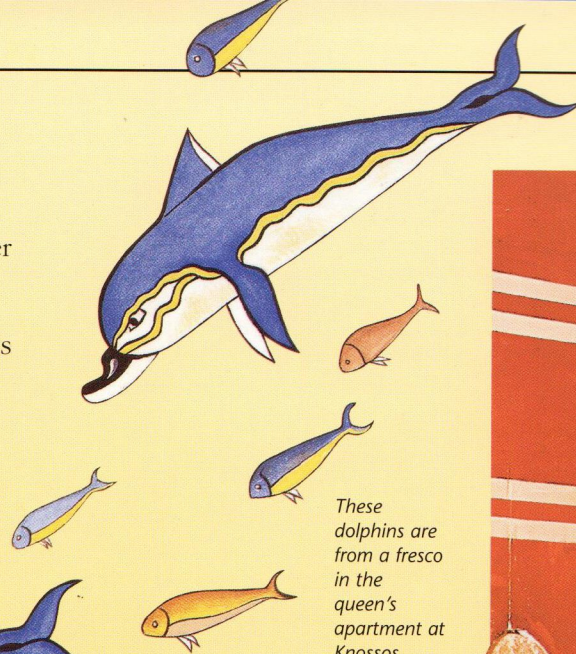
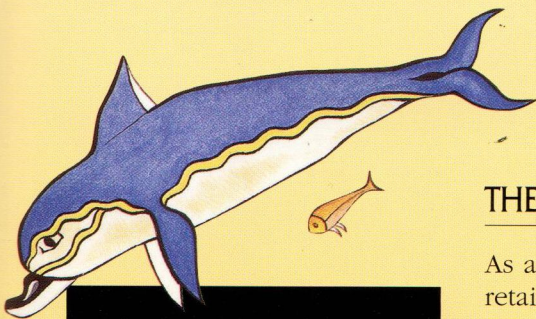


## THE KING

The King of Knossos may have had some authority over the rulers of the other palaces, and played an important part in the religious life of the whole island. He had a number of state apartments, including a throne room where state business and religious ceremonies took place.



*These dolphins are from a fresco in the queen's apartment at Knossos.*



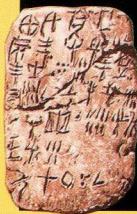
## THE HARVEST

As a form of tax, the king retained part of the annual grain harvest, which was stored at the palace. A portion of it was used to feed the people who lived there, and to pay officials and craftsmen.

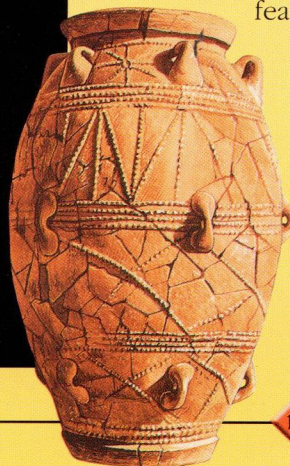
The rest was exported around the Mediterranean, and the profits were used to pay for imports from other countries, such as precious metals, jewels, ostrich feathers, ivory and amber.

## MINOAN SCRIPTS

The Minoans developed writing systems to help them keep records for trading purposes. The first, from c.2000BC, was a form of hieroglyphic (picture) writing. From c.1900BC, they began using a script which we call Linear A. So far, however, no one has been able to decipher either of the scripts.



*Linear A clay tablet from Hagia Triada, dated c.1900BC*



*A large pot, called a pithos, used for storing food and wine*

*The throne room at Knossos was discovered almost intact. This is what it looks like today.*

