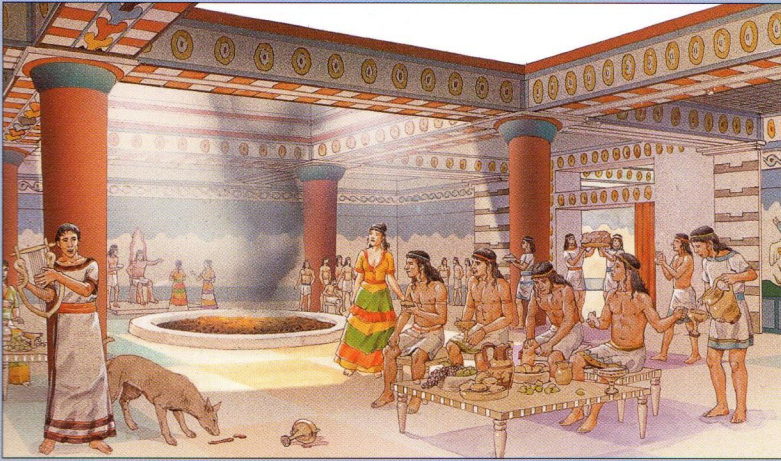


MYCENAEAN PALACE LIFE



This is a reconstruction of a megaron, based on excavations from several cities.

The royal palace at Mycenae was made up of several brightly painted buildings - often with more than one floor - arranged around a vast central courtyard. A Mycenaean palace was far more than just a royal

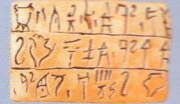
residence. It was a military headquarters, an administrative base, and a workplace for craftsmen. Palace life revolved around a large hall, called a megaron, where the king held court and conducted state business.

This fresco shows a woman courtier, from Mycenae.



MYCENAEAN SCRIPT

The Mycenaeans adapted Minoan forms of writing to devise their own script, which we call Linear B. Archaeologists have unearthed thousands of Linear B tablets, which they have been able to decipher, because the Mycenaeans spoke an early form of Greek.



*Linear B
clay tablet*

The results have not been that exciting, though, as the tablets mainly contain lists - of livestock, farming produce and craft items, as well as details of palace officials and their tasks.