

THE MINOAN CIVILIZATION  
1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CLIL LESSON

SUBJECTS INVOLVED

HISTORY, ENGLISH

# The Minoan civilization

It was an Aegean Bronze Age civilization that flourished in Crete

Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC

Arthur Evans excavated  
Knossos



The term Minoan comes  
from the mythical King  
Minos

# The Minoan civilization

- The **Minoan civilization** was an [Aegean Bronze Age](#) civilization on the island of [Crete](#) which flourished between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2nd millennium BC<sup>1</sup>. With their unique art and architecture the Minoans made a great contribution to the development of the western European civilization. The civilization was rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century through the work of the British archaeologist [Arthur Evans](#) who excavated Knossos.

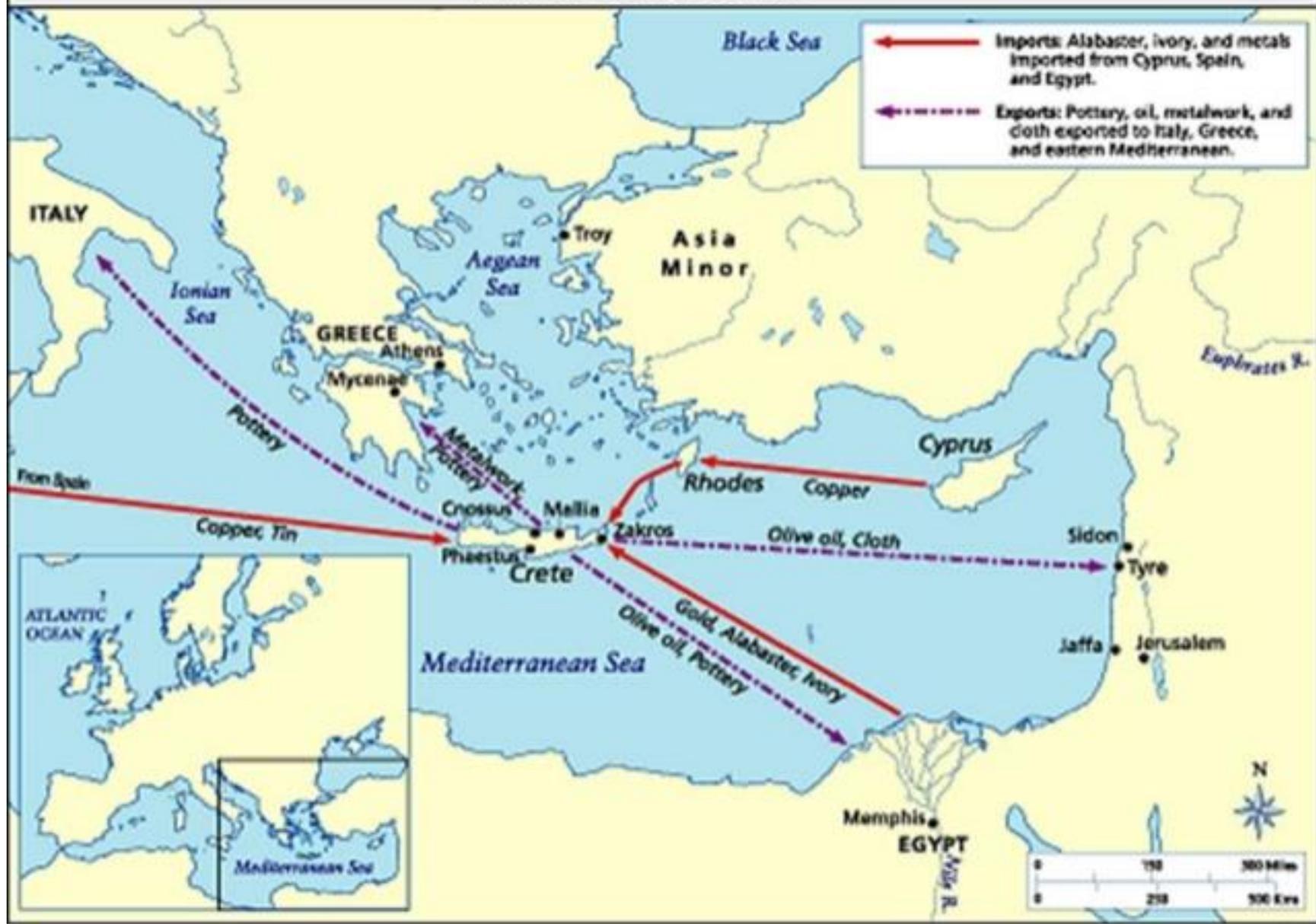
# Minoan trade

- During the Minoan period trade was developed between Crete and Aegean and Mediterranean settlements, particularly the Near East. Through trade, the Minoan cultural influence reached beyond Crete to the
- [Cyclades](#),
- [Egypt](#)
- [Cyprus](#)

# Minoan trade

- The Minoans exported mostly
  - olive oil
  - wine
  - timber
  - stone vases.
- They imported metal and other raw materials in order to make tools, weapons and several works of art, such as copper from Cyprus and silver from the Cyclades.
- Trading made the Minoans rich and powerful.

# Minoan Trade, 1570 BCE



# Minoan palaces

- At about 2000 BC the first Minoan palaces were built. The four principal Minoan palace sites were at
  - [Knossos](#),
  - [Phaistos](#),
  - [Malia](#)
  - [Zakros](#).

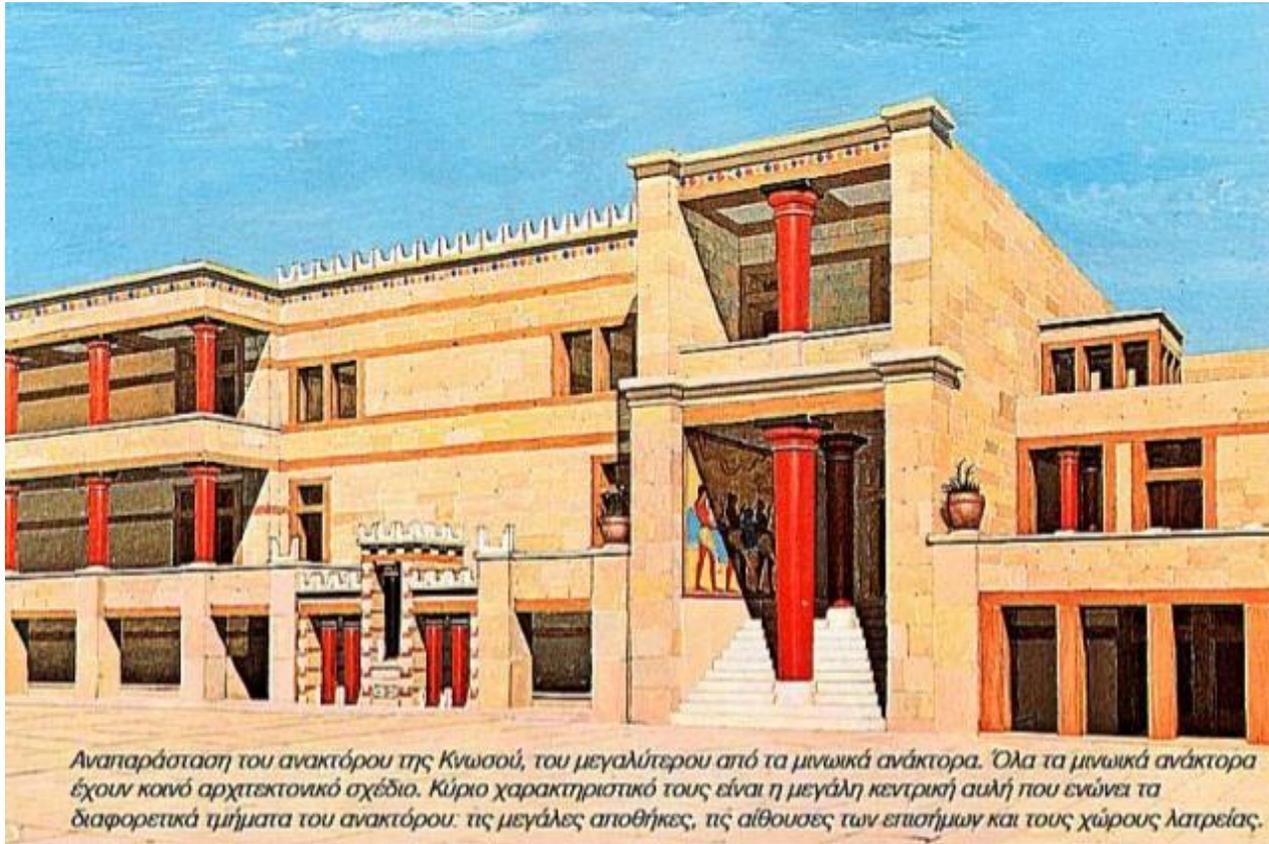
# ΚΝΟΣΣΟΣ



### 3. Μινωικός πολιτισμός

Μπακάλης Κώστας: [history-logotexnia.blogspot.com](http://history-logotexnia.blogspot.com)

# THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS



*Αναπαράσταση του ανακτόρου της Κνωσού, του μεγαλύτερου από τα μινωικά ανάκτορα. Όλα τα μινωικά ανάκτορα έχουν κοινό αρχιτεκτονικό σχέδιο. Κύριο χαρακτηριστικό τους είναι η μεγάλη κεντρική αυλή που ενώνει τα διαφορετικά τμήματα του ανακτόρου: τις μεγάλες αποθήκες, τις αίθουσες των επισήμων και τους χώρους λατρείας.*

# Minoan palaces

- After destructive earthquakes and fires, they were re-built again at about **1700 BC**. These second palaces survived until their final destruction at about **1450 BC**, once again by either earthquake, fire, or possibly invasion or a combination of all three. The palaces were, monumental buildings with:
    - one large rectangular court each
    - a great number of rooms around it
    - colonnades
    - staircases
    - drainage systems
    - light wells
    - ‘theatre’ areas for public spectacles
    - beautiful wall paintings from which we get useful information about their everyday life
- There were no walls around them.



# Trading and Administration

- Each palace was the residence of the King and also acted as a local **administrative** and **trade** centre where wine, oil, grain, precious metals and ceramics were gathered. It was also a **religious** centre. So in the palace lived and worked a great number of people, such as state officials, servants, skilled workmen.

# Minoan scripts

- Although the [Minoan language](#) and writing systems remain undecipherable, we know that they spoke a language entirely different from the later Greek.
- The Minoans used two kinds of scripts:
- Cretan hieroglyphs ( on the famous Phaistos Disc ) and
- Linear A.



# Minoan economy

- During the period of the New Palaces (1700-1450 BC) the Minoans travelled with their ships all over the Aegean Sea selling their products, mostly works of art (pottery, jewellery, stone statuettes).
- They were very rich and powerful by then.

# The Mycenaeans at Knossos

- At about 1450 BC the Minoan palaces are destroyed probably because of a volcanic eruption except that of Knossos. After that the Mycenaeans from mainland Greece had the chance to invade Crete and make it a Mycenaean province.

# THE DESTRUCTION

