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**Ancient Crete:
Minoan Civilization**




SOCALLED "THrone of MINOS"
FOUND AT Cnossos IN CRETE

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Archaeology

- Cretan history previously known only through myths and legends
- British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans found and studied remains on Crete
- Called "Minoan" civilization after numerous kings named Minos



Sir Arthur Evans

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Natural Resources

- Copper
- Fertile soil
- Gold
- Good harbors
- Lead
- Silver



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Early History

- 3000-1400 B.C.E. – Cretan empire
- Parts of Asia and Greek peninsula, and other Aegean islands
- Major cities
 - Knossos (a.k.a. Cnossus)
 - Phaestus



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Economy

- Leading sailors and traders before the Phoenicians
 - Traded metal goods, pottery, and textiles
 - Traded with Egyptians, Syrians, and others
- Strong navy
 - Exacted tribute from neighbors
 - Protected the merchant marine



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Decline and Fall

- 14th century B.C.E.
 - Conquered by barbarians from central and Eastern Europe
 - Hellenes attacked and destroyed Crete
 - Mixture of Cretans and Hellenes became the Greeks



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Legacy

- Link between ancient Egypt and classical Greece
- Cretan writing remains largely undeciphered
- Palaces had baths, drains, and plumbing
- Stressed athleticism – boxing, dancing, and running
- Women enjoyed a level of equality with men



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Art and Religion

- Principal deity was a goddess
- Art illustrates religious festivals and rituals
- Colorful palaces
- Painting, pottery, and sculpture



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Review Questions

- What famous British archaeologist first excavated and studied Minoan remains at Crete?
- Upon what was the Minoan economy based?
- What caused the decline of Minoan civilization?
- Describe Minoan culture.