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**Grade 10 Social Studies Toolkit**

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### **Level and Theme**

Grade 10 is the targeted audience for this toolkit, however, the supplementary materials and arts-based project can be modified for different age groups.

The theme is early Greek history, specifically, Minoan civilization, and how they benefited from ties with Egypt and Mesopotamia. These Bronze Age civilizations of Greece influenced and shaped both their Mediterranean neighbors and western civilization. This toolkit focuses specifically on Minoan Art.

### **Objectives**

**Grade 10 Social Studies Curriculum: Ancient Medieval History, 1997.**

#### **Outcomes related to Unit 3: The Glory that was Greece**

The student should be able to...

**Outcome Number 2:** Explain the advantages Crete possessed which enabled it to develop a sophisticated civilization, evaluate the accomplishments of that civilization, and the reasons for its decline. (p.26)

**Outcome Number 3:** Describe the political and social organization of Mycenaean civilization as revealed in the archaeological and written record.

#### **Toolkit objectives:**

- To familiarize students with the ways in which Minoan history and culture are reflected in its art.
- To provide opportunities for students to engage with different forms of art to help them make connections with the aspects of Ancient Greek culture.
- To explore the ways Greek culture has influenced contemporary Western culture.

## Art Project: Minoan Pottery & Fresco



### Materials Required

- Cardstock Paper
- Dishsoap
- Oil Pastels
- Painters tape
- Black Acrylic Paint
- Bamboo Skewers or Toothpicks



On a sheet of thick cardstock create a frame for your work with painters tape. Make sure the tape is thoroughly adhered.

Each section needs to be fully covered in oil pastel, with no white paper showing. The white needs to be gone!



Create a mixture of 50% Black Acrylic Paint  
and  
50% Dishsoap

Paint the mixture over the oil pastel. Use two coats to completely cover the colors.



When the black paint is dry: Using Minoan pottery themes as inspiration, use a sharp bamboo skewer or a toothpick to carve through the black paint.





Remove the  
painters tape  
to reveal your  
masterpiece.

## Supplementary Texts for Students

Orr, Wendy. (2017). *Dragonfly Song*. Toronto, ON. Pajama Press.

The story is about a young girl born to a priestess on an island, but she is born with extra thumbs. The priestess believes her daughter is cursed by the gods, so the king cuts off her extra thumbs and abandons her so she will die. However, she doesn't die and without anyone knowing who she is she becomes a slave to the priestess and they call her No-name. However, everyone treats her terribly and the only way she thinks she will gain the respect of others is to become a bull dancer. Every year the Bull King sends soldiers to take children to make them become bull dancers, but no one really knows what a bull dancer is because no one has survived the dance.

“A riveting, mythic Bronze Age adventure from award-winning author Wendy Orr.”

Venditti, Robert. (2005). **Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel**. New York, NY: Hyperion Books.

This is a graphic novel adaptation of the first book in the Percy Jackson novel series, that centers around a teenage boy living in contemporary New York City who is the son of Poseidon the Ancient Greek God of the Sea. The series follows his exploits as he cavorts with other demi-Gods and saves the world.

Video:

**I'm From Crete, I'm Minoan 3:46 Delfeios Attikos**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjiN90zAUeE>

This video is a parody of the song by Radiohead “Creep”. It is sung by a history teacher, is funny, and lists details about living in Crete, the Palace at Knossos, King Minos, the Minotaur

### Online Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4hRA2lgtB4>

This 10 minute youtube video takes a quick look at the Bronze Age civilization from the island of Crete, the Minoans. The Minoans, a seafaring culture rich in colour and art, were both influenced by and influencers of their neighbours. The video also touches on Arthur Evans, an archeologist who discovered the ruins of the palace of Knossos, which confirmed old legends and myths that there had been an ancient and advanced civilization on the island of Crete. The artifacts and findings lead Evans to name the civilization Minoans after the legendary King Minos. This resource is a short video full of images and would be good to use as an introduction to the unit.

[:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boqPlwEZk1I:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boqPlwEZk1I)

This 54-minute episode from the documentary series Secrets of the Dead, aired in 2008, explores Europe's first great civilization that flourished on the island of Crete, the Minoans. This episode investigates the mysterious disappearance of the Minoan civilization. Scientists from many backgrounds try to figure out what really happened on the island Crete and they pay particular attention to evidence that suggests the possibility of a tsunami. Furthermore, they connect the evidence to the Atlantis fable. This episode would benefit students and further their understanding of Minoan civilization and at the same time allow them to reflect on the role myths play in society.

<http://arthistoryblogger.blogspot.com/2012/08/the-frescoes-of-akrotiri.html>

This blog features an article posted in 2012 that attempts to explore the unknowns of the Bronze Age Civilization, the Minoans, through a small sampling of the remains of Minoan frescoes. The article examines similarities and differences found in the art of other Bronze Age Civilizations such as the Egyptians and Mesopotamians. This would be useful for students to view either as an introduction to the unit or after, as it can help students to investigate how art from the past holds clues to life in the past. By examining artworks in the past, we can learn about the society that created it.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b01292ts>

This 43-minute podcast from BBC aired in 2011, where Melvin Bragg discusses the Minoan civilization with many guests. Moreover, the discussion focuses on Arthur Evans, an archaeologist from 1900 who discovered the ancient ruins at Knossos on the island of Crete. Evans discovered a large palace that reminded him of the mythical labyrinth of King Minos and decided in honour of the legendary king named the Bronze Age society the Minoans. Although, since Evan's discoveries, we have learned a great deal about the Minoan society, much still remains a mystery. This resource would be good to use after the students have already been introduced to the unit, but it could also be used as an introduction to the unit.

[https://www.ancient.eu/Minoan\\_Art/](https://www.ancient.eu/Minoan_Art/)

This article published in 2017, clearly defines Minoan Art, which is the art of the Minoan civilization of the Bronze Age. The article highlights Minoans' love of animals, sea, and plant life, which were often used to decorate frescoes and pottery, but could also be found in jewelry, stone vessels, and sculptures. The article also looks to Minoan Art to understand the religious, communal, and funeral practices of Minoan society. This resource would be good to use as an introduction to the unit, as it explores how art can express the values of a society as well as reveal cultural practices. However, it could also be used for a unit review.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2019/09-10/minotaur-in-greek-roman-mythology/>

This national geographic article looks at the story of the Minotaur, which has fascinated people for thousands of years and inspired many works of art including pottery, poetry, plays and many more. The minotaur, a popular myth, has deep roots in real events in the Bronze Age. The bull-headed man in Mino's maze contains traits that can be found in the culture of Crete and the ancient Minoan civilization. The article considers classic literature and art of greek and roman sources. This resource would be good to use after the students have already been introduced to the unit. Furthermore, this article could be used with both supplementary resources Dragonfly Song and The Lightning Thief.

### **Follow-Up Project Description**

Students will create a piece of art of their choosing, such as a poem, painting, clay sculpture or collage, etc. Students will be asked to reflect on key learnings from the unit, in particular, what can the art of the past teach us about societies of the past. Students will be asked to create an original piece of art of what they believe reflects modern society. The students will examine each other's work and identify what they think their fellow classmates' art pieces suggest about modern society.