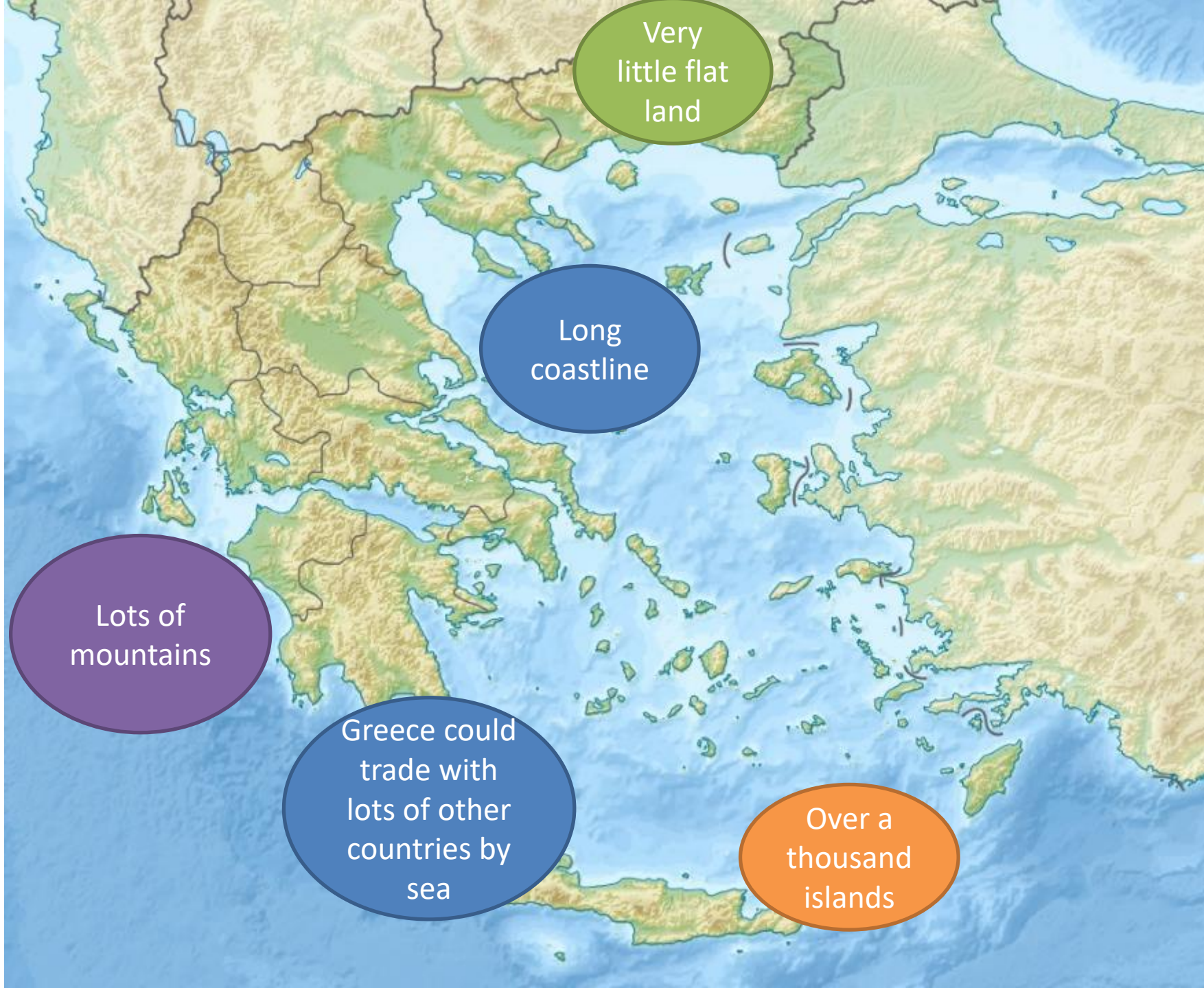


Ancient Greece

How can we possibly know so much
about the Ancient Greeks who lived
over 2,500 years ago?

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Our study of Ancient Greece must begin with an appreciation of the **physical features** of Greece. **Landform** and **climate** do not explain the vast and varied achievements of the ancient Greeks, but they have determined and influenced many of the **political**, **economic** and **social** developments for which ancient Greece is remembered.



Very
little flat
land

Long
coastline

Lots of
mountains

Greece could
trade with
lots of other
countries by
sea

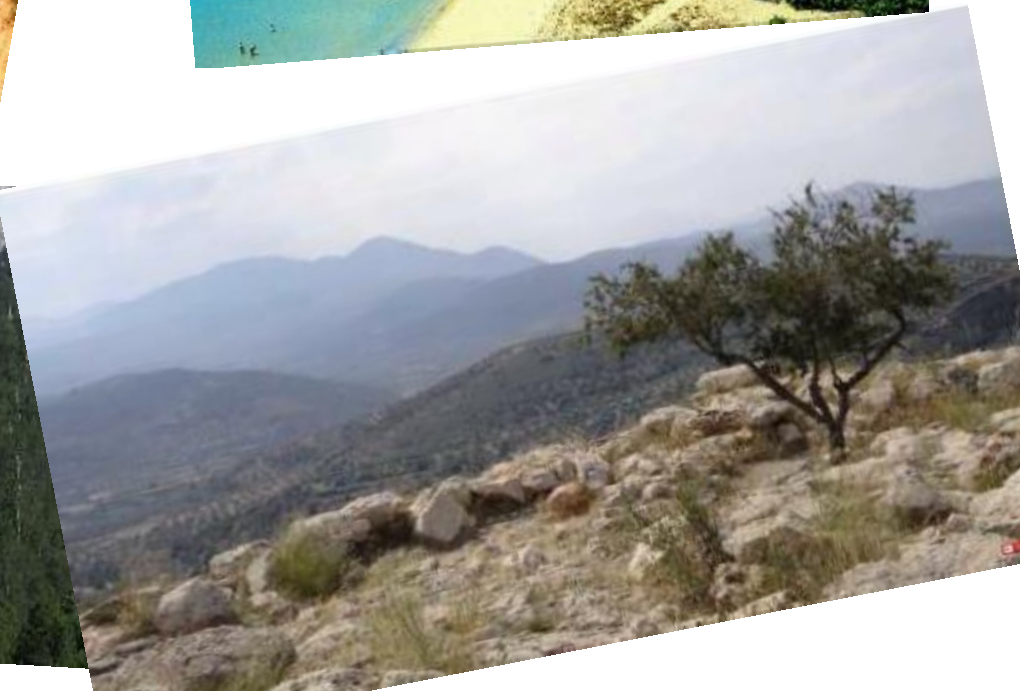
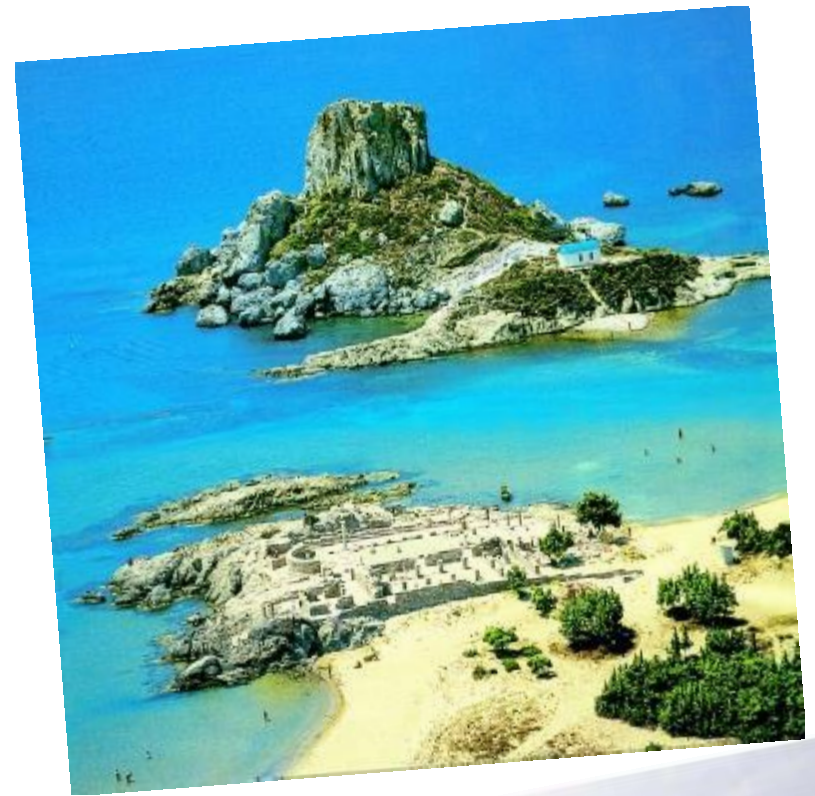
Over a
thousand
islands

Physical Features

- Long coastline
- Indented coast: lots of bays not straight coastlines
- Mostly mountainous interior, mainly rugged limestone. This made movement by land very difficult, hence reliance on the sea
- Few areas of land suitable for farming crops
- Lots of islands used as links to other neighbouring countries.

Can you record your features in your books

Has anyone here been to Greece? What was it like?



Important places you will learn about



Consequences

① With limited amounts of land on which they could grow crops the Ancient Greeks had to.....

search for new lands which could provide food and trade with them.

② With a long coastline there were plenty of

safe harbours from which boats could leave in search of other lands.

③ With so much coast and so many islands to reach Greeks became
expert sailors and boatbuilders.

④ As the climate is mainly hot and dry Ancient Greeks spent a lot of time outdoors,

meeting in places like the agora or market place to share ideas.

⑤ Mountains made it difficult to travel between different parts of Greece so individual areas became...

very independent. They were called city states. A city state was called a polis which gives us our word political.

Let's look at an Ancient Greek Timeline

Most of our attention will be focussed in the Golden Age of Athens – 6th and 5th Century BC
But today we will be looking at the story of Theseus and the Minotaur



How can we possibly know about these events?

- Physical evidence that has remained
- Myths and legends

Let's look at the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. This story blends legend and archaeological evidence. While you are watching, think about what sort of evidence might have survived to prove that the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur may actually have been a fact. What might we find if we were archaeologists setting out to dig for evidence?

Evidence from the Past

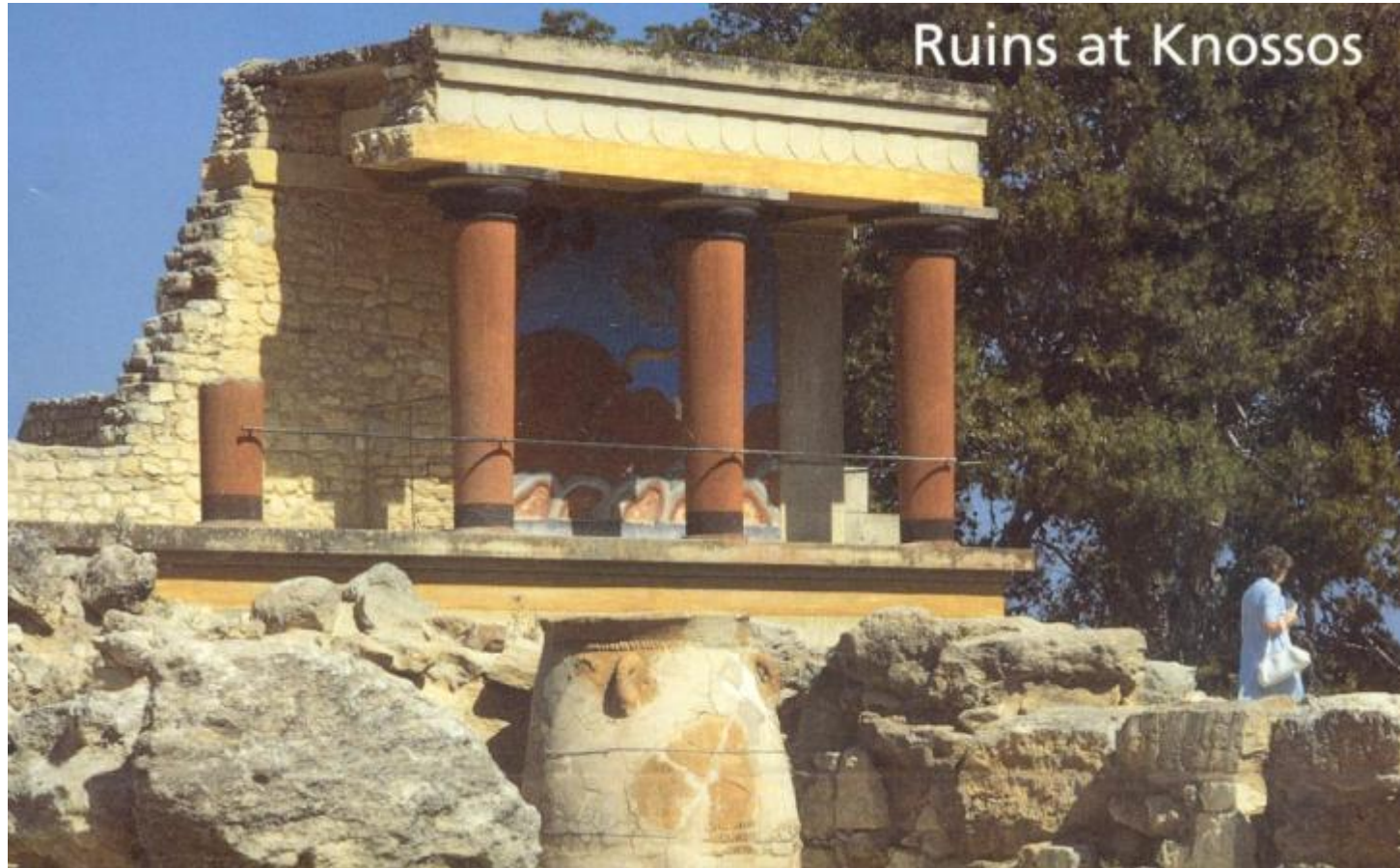
So, what sort of evidence might have survived to prove that the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur may actually have been a fact.

What might we find if we were archaeologists setting out to dig for evidence?

Clearly the black sails will no longer be with us, or Ariadne's thread ; but what about the maze itself? And where did it all take place? Might there be any remains of the palace itself?

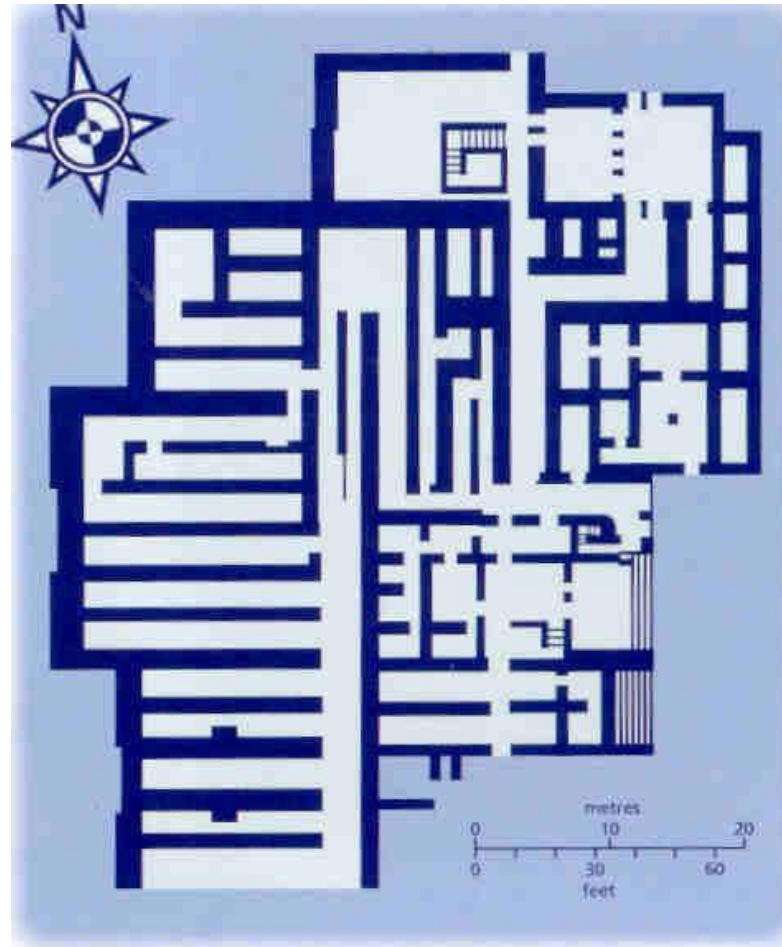
As we go through the next 10 slides make notes on your worksheet.

1



Remains of the palace at Knossos on Crete the scene of the encounter between Theseus and the Minotaur. Discovered by Sir Arthur Evans – British Archeologist in 1900

2



A plan of the palace in the form of a maze

3



A double-headed axe, a labyr, similar to the one used in the story

4

An explanation as to the link between the axe and the labyrinth

The Ancient Greek word *labrys* means double-headed axe; and labyrinth means house of the double-headed axe.

5



A map showing the island of Crete where the story took place and showing where the palace of Knossos was – i.e. a real place. Also shows how it relates to Greek mainland and Athens

6



Fresco showing bull-vaulting and bringing home how important these animals were to Minoan culture

7



An aerial view of the palace building

8



Ivory model showing bull vaulting found in the palace at Knossos

9



Coin from Knossos depicting the Minotaur Labyrinth

10



A labyr or two-headed axe carved in stone found on the island of Crete and dated to the time of the story.

Sir Arthur Evans – English Archaeologist

- Until the English archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans, unearthed the palace of Knossos in 1900, the half-man-half bull killed by Theseus was considered just a popular legend; archaeology changed that perception.

In your books, list the pieces of evidence that you feel show that the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur actually happened.

- List the piece of evidence
- Underline
- Write a short paragraph explaining how that piece of evidence confirms the legend is actually fact.

