

Theseus and The Minotaur is a Greek myth about the son of an Athenian king—a young man called Theseus—and a horrifying monster, known as "The Minotaur."

This story, like many other Greek stories, comes to us by way of the ancient writer Plutarch (and his famous "Lives").

The Minotaur lived in a labyrinth on the island of Crete at the palace of Knossos.

It had a terrible desire for human blood.

Periodically, seven boys and seven girls from Athens were selected to go into the Labyrinth with the Minotaur. They were called Tributes. Their sacrifice was demanded by King Minos, the ruler of Crete.

Only one person—Ariadne, daughter of King Minos—could ever get near the monster.

Meanwhile ... Theseus was growing up with his mother. His father, whom he did not know, had abandoned his family years before.

There was one way for Theseus to learn the identity of his father. It would require great strength, however, to make that happen.

See, also:

[Theseus - Volunteers as a Tribute](#)

[Theseus - At the Palace in Crete](#)

[Theseus - Slays the Minotaur](#)

[Theseus - End of the Story](#)

Credits:

Clip from a series known as "The Storyteller" - episode "[Theseus and the Minotaur](#)" - an American/British co-production. Copyright, Henson Associates and TVS Television, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

The series was created by Jim Henson (creator of The Muppets) and developed by Anthony Minghella. It originally aired in 1988. The series ended after the second season. "Theseus and the Minotaur" is from the last season.

This clip features:

Director - John Madden

Screenplay - By Nigel William

Producer - Duncan Kenworthy

Michael Gambon - **The Storyteller**

Brian Henson - The Storyteller's Dog

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Theseus-Hero-of-Greek-Mythology>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Theseus-Hero-of-Greek-Mythology>