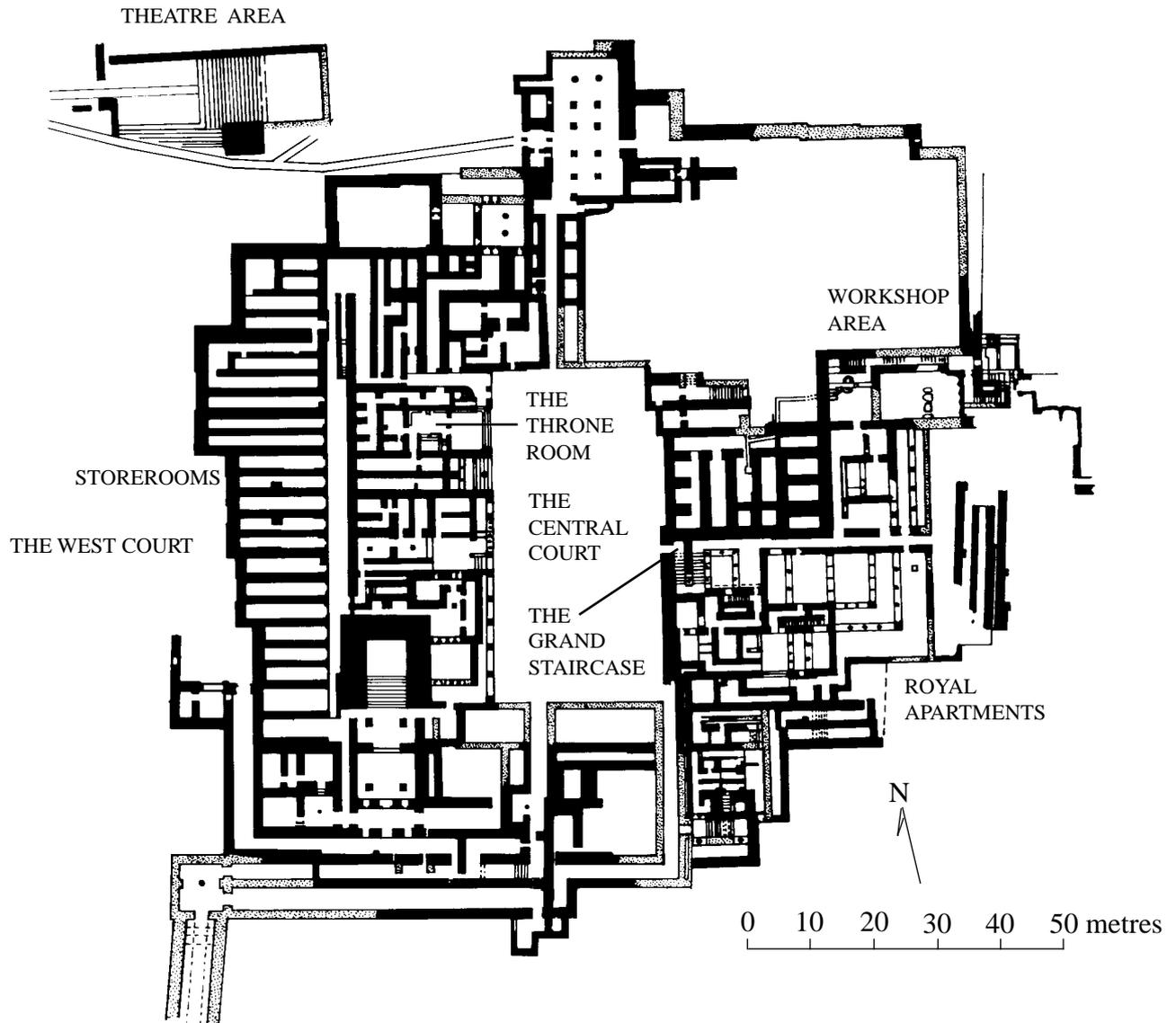


# THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS, CRETE



## Questions

1. There were three entrances to the Palace of Knossos. Find each of these entrances on the plan above and draw in on the plan how you would get to the Central Court from each entrance.
2. Using the scale and compass on the plan, answer the following questions.
  - a) The Central Court measures \_\_\_\_\_ metres North-South, and \_\_\_\_\_ metres East-West. (distance)
  - b) The Storerooms were on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the palace. (direction)
  - c) The Royal Apartments were on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the palace. (direction)
  - d) The Theatre Area is to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the palace. (direction)
  - e) The North-South length of the palace is \_\_\_\_\_ metres. (distance)
  - f) The Throne Room is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ metres from the West Court. (distance)

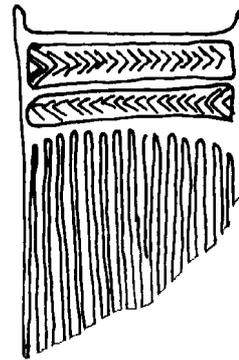
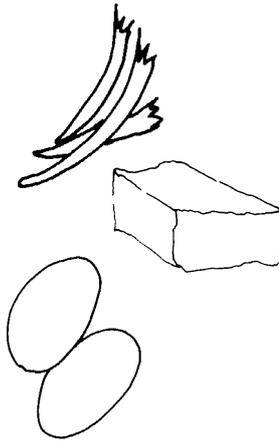
# THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS, CRETE

## ARTEFACT REPORT

**WHERE FOUND:** Workshop 1  
North-East section; Palace  
of Knossos

### ARTEFACTS:

- Horde of ivory elephant tusks
- Two complete ostrich eggs
- One block of unworked Egyptian alabaster



## ARTEFACT REPORT

**WHERE FOUND:** Workshop 2  
North-East section; Palace  
of Knossos

### ARTEFACTS:

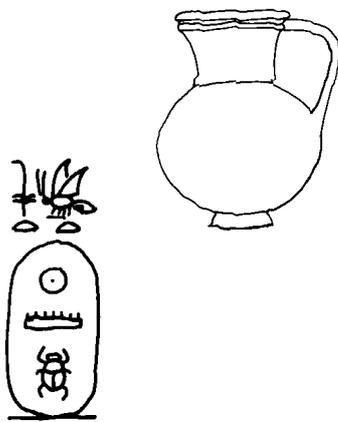
- Stone bead necklace
- Ivory comb. Unfinished. Apparently broken during manufacture

## ARTEFACT REPORT

**WHERE FOUND:** Storeroom 1  
West section; Palace of  
Knossos

### ARTEFACTS:

- Alabaster stone jug of local manufacture
- Clay seal bearing the name of the Egyptian pharaoh Thutmosis III (1504-1450 BC)



## Questions

1. The artefacts found in Storeroom 1 could not have been stored there before 1504 BC. How can we know this from the evidence found in this room?  

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2. What do the elephant tusks and the block of Egyptian alabaster found in Workshop 1 indicate?  

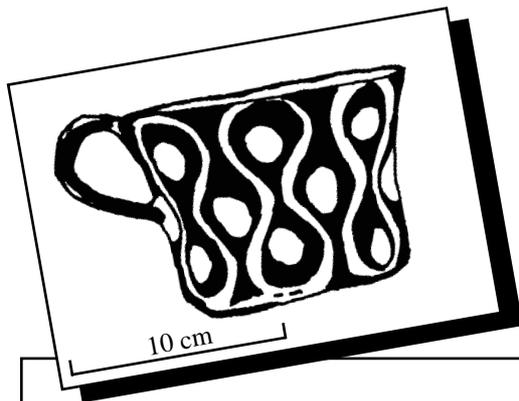
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3. What does the broken ivory comb tell us?  

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4. Which of the artefacts shown above indicates trade with regions other than Greece?  

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5. What evidence is there for local manufacture of imported raw materials?  

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# POTTERY STUDY: THE MINOANS



- This cup was found in the Palace of Knossos and was made around 1800 BC. It was first painted black with white and orange paint being added to the top of that.

Another archaeologist has asked you to send a description of the cup. How would you describe the shape and decoration?

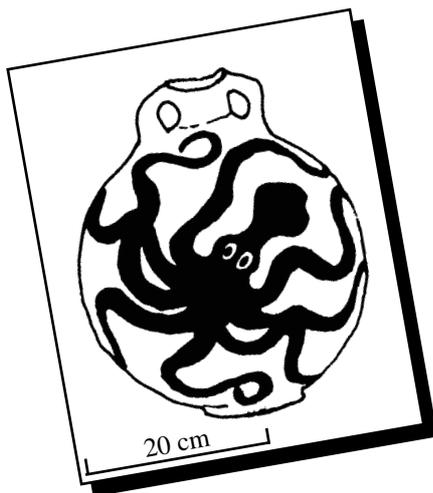
## ARTEFACT REPORT

WHERE FOUND:

SHAPE AND SIZE:

DECORATION:

POSSIBLE USE:



- This pot was also found in the Palace of Knossos but was made about 300 years after the cup above. For about 50 years before 1450 BC, the Minoans liked to decorate their pots with creatures from the sea like this octopus.

## Questions

1. When was this pot made?
- 

2. How would you describe the difference between the decoration on both pieces of pottery? Do you think they are similar or very different in decoration?
- 

3. What do you think the decoration on this pot tells us about the Minoans?
- 

4. What other archaeological evidence at Knossos have we seen which illustrates the importance of the sea in Minoan society?
-

# THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR



Each year the Athenians sent seven young men and seven young women as tribute (payment) to King Minos - the ruler at the Palace of Knossos in Crete. The Athenians had been ordered to do this because an ambassador from Crete had been murdered in Athens. When they arrived at the Palace of Knossos, the young Athenians were fed to the half-human, half-bull Minotaur which lived in a labyrinth (maze) under the palace. None ever returned.

When the annual tribute was demanded again, Theseus, the son of King Aegeus of Athens, volunteered to be one of the fourteen. His father made him promise that when he returned that he would change the black sail of the ship to a white one - if his mission to kill the Minotaur was successful. On Crete, Theseus and Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos, fell in love. Ariadne gave him a ball of wool to unravel as he searched for the Minotaur in the maze of corridors beneath the palace. Theseus killed the Minotaur and followed the trail of wool back out of the labyrinth. He sailed back to Athens, but in his excitement to get home, Theseus forgot to change the sail on his ship as he had promised his father. When King Aegeus saw the black sail he leapt into the sea thinking his son was dead. This is how the sea which surrounds most of Greece - The Aegean - got its name.

## Questions

1. What usually happened to the Athenians who were sent each year to Crete?

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2. Why did Theseus promise his father to change the colour of the sail on his ship?

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3. How did Theseus find his way out of the labyrinth?

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4. How did the Aegean Sea get its name?

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5. The story of the Minotaur is a myth - although many myths have some elements of truth in them. Have another look at the plan for the Palace of Knossos and see if you can think why later Greeks believed the Minotaur lived beneath this palace in a maze.

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