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LESSON 1: *The Mediterranean World; Crete* (Ch. 1 & 2)

FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Mediterranean Sea** – "The Sea"; main body of water south of Greece
2. **Aegean Sea** – part of Mediterranean Sea; between Greece and Asia Minor
3. **Crete** – largest island in the Aegean Sea
4. **Minos** – famous king of Crete
5. **Thucydides** – ancient Greek historian
6. **Knossos** – chief city of Crete
7. **Mother Earth (Source of Life)** – chief goddess of Cretan religion

"Currents have more than one way of running through a strait." – Strabo

"There is a land called Crete in the midst of the wine-dark sea, a fair land and a rich, begirt with water, and therein are many men innumerable and ninety cities." – The Odyssey

VOCABULARY

1. piracy the act of attack and robbery of ships at sea
2. artificer a skilled craftsman or inventor
3. fresco a watercolor painting done on a wall or ceiling
4. flounce a wide, decorative strip of material sewn on a skirt or dress
5. society a group of people living in an ordered community
6. votive offering an image given to a god to fulfill a vow
7. sentry a soldier stationed to guard a palace
8. baldric a belt for a sword

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe how Minos came to be the hero-king of Crete.

Minos was a descendant of the god Zeus, who ruled over the whole Aegean. He was the first ruler who possessed a navy and made all the other cities pay tribute to him. He was also a lawgiver who received his laws directly from Zeus himself.

2. How was the dress of the Cretan woman modern?

The Cretan woman wore dresses with short sleeves, colorfully embroidered skirts, shoes with heels or sandals, and elaborate hair designs or hats.

3. Why is it difficult to know much about Cretan religion and culture?

The writing of Crete has not yet been deciphered. There are some writings available, but there is no key to help us understand them.

4. Describe some of the activities of young men during a day in Crete.

There are exhibitions of boxing, bullfighting, and a wild boar hunt. In the evening, they may participate in a dance.

5. Describe the fall of Crete.

There was likely a great sea battle. Then the conquerers would have marched upon the town and besieged it. After the city was taken, it was burned. The men were killed, and the women and children were taken captive.

ACTIVITIES

1. Begin a timeline to keep track of the history of ancient Greece. Add *1500 B.C. The Rise of Crete* to your timeline.

2. The Double Axe was an important symbol for power in ancient Crete. Create a list of images that show power in our society today.