

Text 1: The Minotaur (Greek myth)

The Minotaur was a brutal creature. It had the muscular body of a man and the head of a bull. The Minotaur was so fearsome that King Minos constructed a complicated labyrinth to keep it contained. The labyrinth was a maze of twists and turns and obstacles. At its very centre was the Minotaur. The monster was eventually killed by the Greek hero Theseus.

Questions

- 1. Why was the Minotaur dangerous?**
- 2. Why was the Minotaur difficult to find?**

Text 2: Why the crow is black (Aboriginal myth)

One day a hawk and a crow hunted together. They decided to share the day's catch. The crow had a good day and caught several ducks, but he was greedy and ate them all. The hawk caught nothing. The hawk was angry at the crow and pushed him to the ground near a campfire. The crow rolled in the ashes and turned black. Since that time, all crows have been black.

Questions

- 1. Why was the hawk angry with the crow?**
- 2. Did the hawk hunt well? How do you know?**

Text 3: The Phoenix (Chinese myth)

The phoenix is a mythical bird with feathers that blend all the known colours. Its bird song is a harmony of five notes that is pleasing to the ear. It is thought that the phoenix bathes in the purest natural spring water that flows high through the mountains. The Chinese consider an appearance of the phoenix to be a sign of great prosperity and wealth.

Questions

- 1. Is the phoenix a real bird? How do you know that?**
- 2. Is the phoenix a colourful bird? How do you know that?**

Text 4: Thor (Norse myth)

Thor is the strongest of all the Norse gods. Thor wears a belt that doubles his strength and he has a hammer, which causes great noise and sparks which can defeat his enemies. The great Norse god is associated with thunder and lightning.

Questions

- 1. What would happen to Thor's strength if he lost his belt?**
- 2. What does the Norse myth say causes thunder and lightning?**

