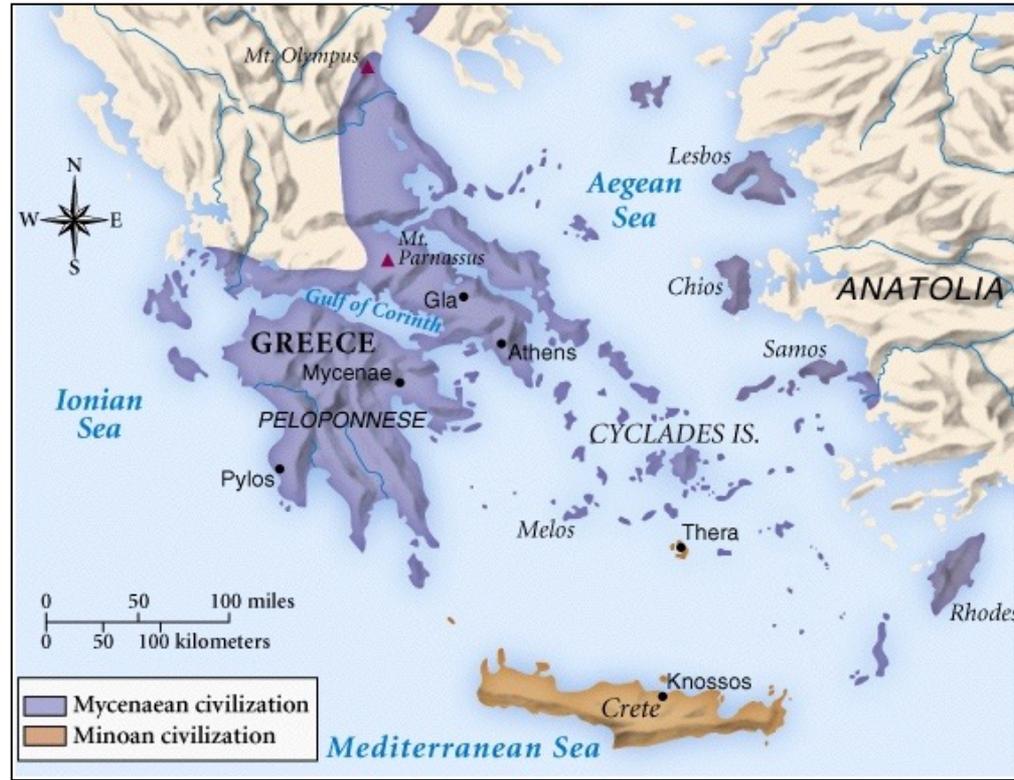


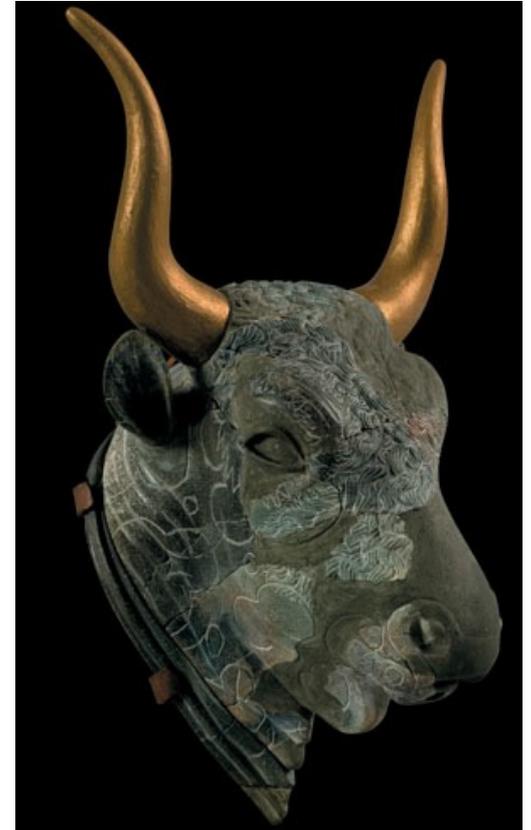
# Minoans and Mycenaeans



## Early Greeks

# Minoan Crete

- Crete is an island south of Greece.
- Cretans, or Minoans, became a civilization from 2600-1150 BCE during the Bronze Age.
  - Copper (Cu) + Tin (Sn) = Bronze
- The name “Minoan,” coined by Arthur Evans, was based on the mythical story of King Minos



# Who was Arthur Evans?



- English archaeologist
- Discovered the palace of Knossos on Crete in 1903
- The maze-like palace reminded Evans of the Labyrinth, so he named the civilization after King Minos.

# King Minos and the Labyrinth

- According to legend, Minos claimed the Cretan throne and ruled for many years in his palace at Knossos.
- King Minos ordered Daedalus, a famous inventor and architect, to build a labyrinth to hold the Minotaur.
  - The Labyrinth was almost impossible to escape.
  - The Minotaur is was half man and half bull.



# Depictions of the Minotaur



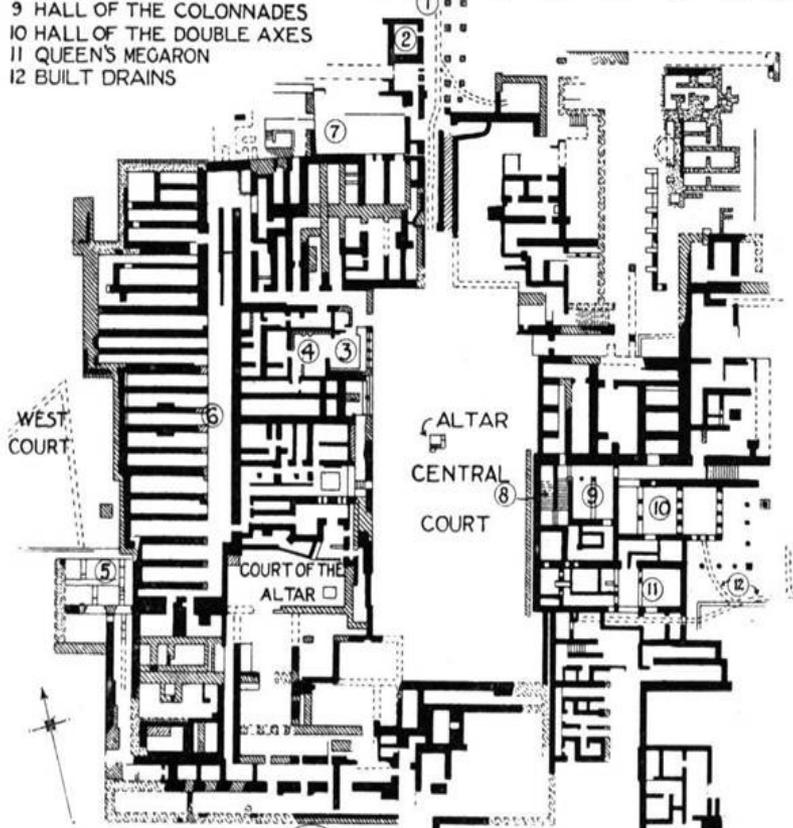
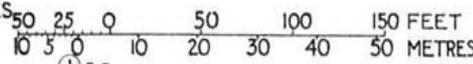
# Palace of Knossos and Archaeology

- The Palace of Knossos is huge and elaborate.
- The painted walls show bulls, which Minoans worshipped as a sacred animal.
  - Bull-jumping was a sport.
- The palace was abandoned during the Late Bronze Age, but no one is sure why:
  - Earthquakes?
  - Foreign Attacks?
  - Famine / Plague?
  - Or some combination of the three...?



# PALACE OF KING MINOS : KNOSSOS . CRETE

- 1 N. ENTRANCE & PORTICO
- 2 BASTION & GUARD HOUSE
- 3 ANTE ROOM TO THRONE ROOM
- 4 THRONE ROOM WITH TANK
- 5 W. PORTICO
- 6 LONG GALLERY WITH MAGAZINES
- 7 NORTHERN BATH
- 8 GREAT STAIRCASE
- 9 HALL OF THE COLONNADES
- 10 HALL OF THE DOUBLE AXES
- 11 QUEEN'S MEGARON
- 12 BUILT DRAINS



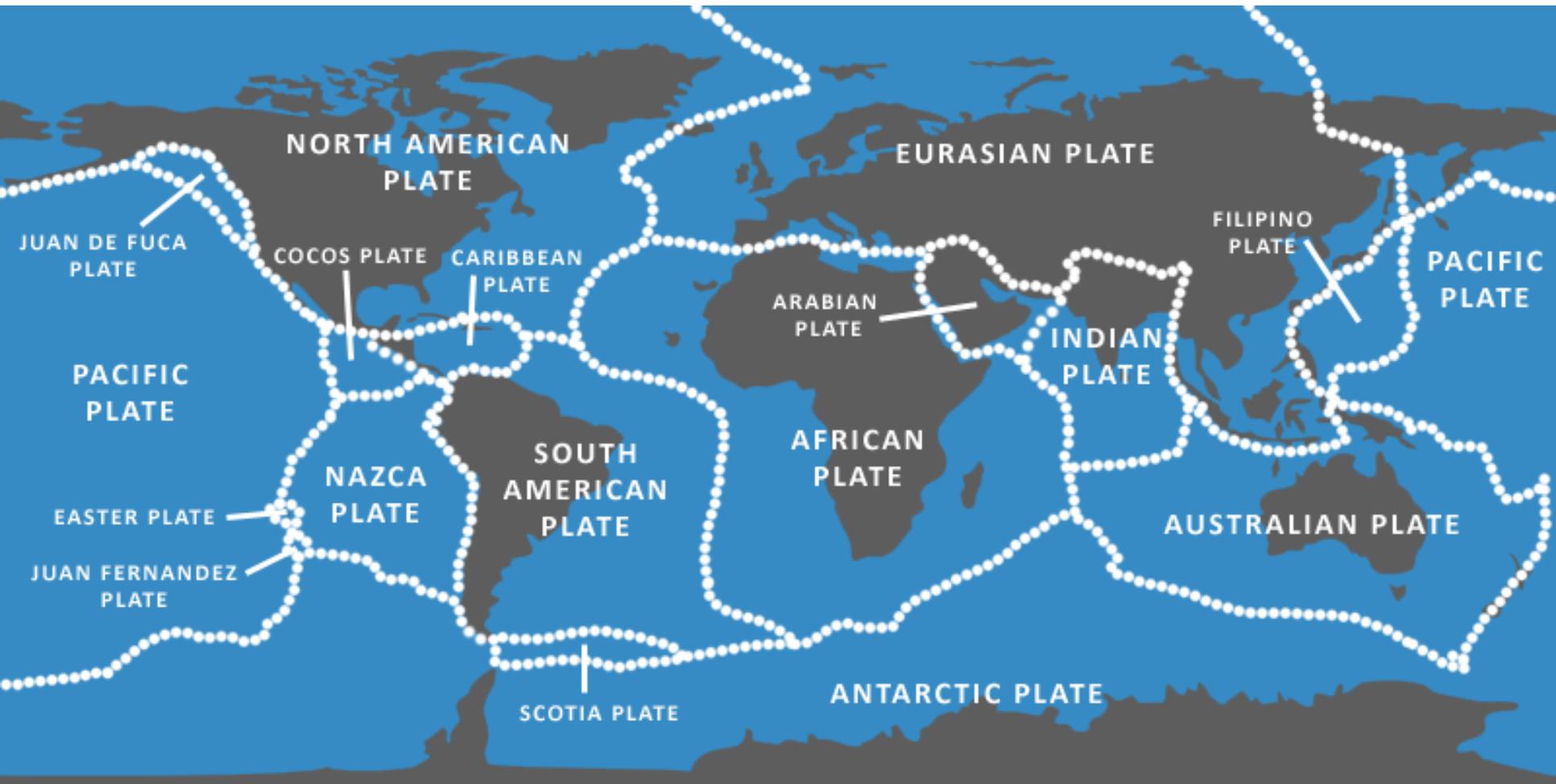
(B) PLAN

# Minoan Collapse

- Thera volcano erupted north of Crete 1627-1600 BC.
  - The eruption likely caused a *tsunami*, flooding Crete.
- Mycenaean Greeks conquered Crete by 1450 BC.
  - Some historians think that the memory of this disaster inspired the story of **Atlantis**.



# Global Map of Tectonic Plates





# Minoan Religion

- The Minoans were *matriarchal*.
  - *Mater* is Latin for “mother”
  - Means that the Minoans worshipped primarily goddesses.
- Major celebration “The Bull Dance” was shown on large frescoes at Knossos and inscribed on clay tablets
  - A fresco is a colorful wall painting.



# Mycenaeans

- Mycenae (*MY-SEE-nigh*) was a Greek culture of late Bronze Age Greece,
- 1600-1100 BC.
  - They were called Mycenaeans
    - (*MY-sa-NEE-ens*)
- “Mycenae” comes from the archaeological site at Mycenae in southern Greece.
- King Agamemnon (*AG-uh-MEM-non*) of the Trojan War was from Mycenae.



# War-like Culture of Mycenaeans

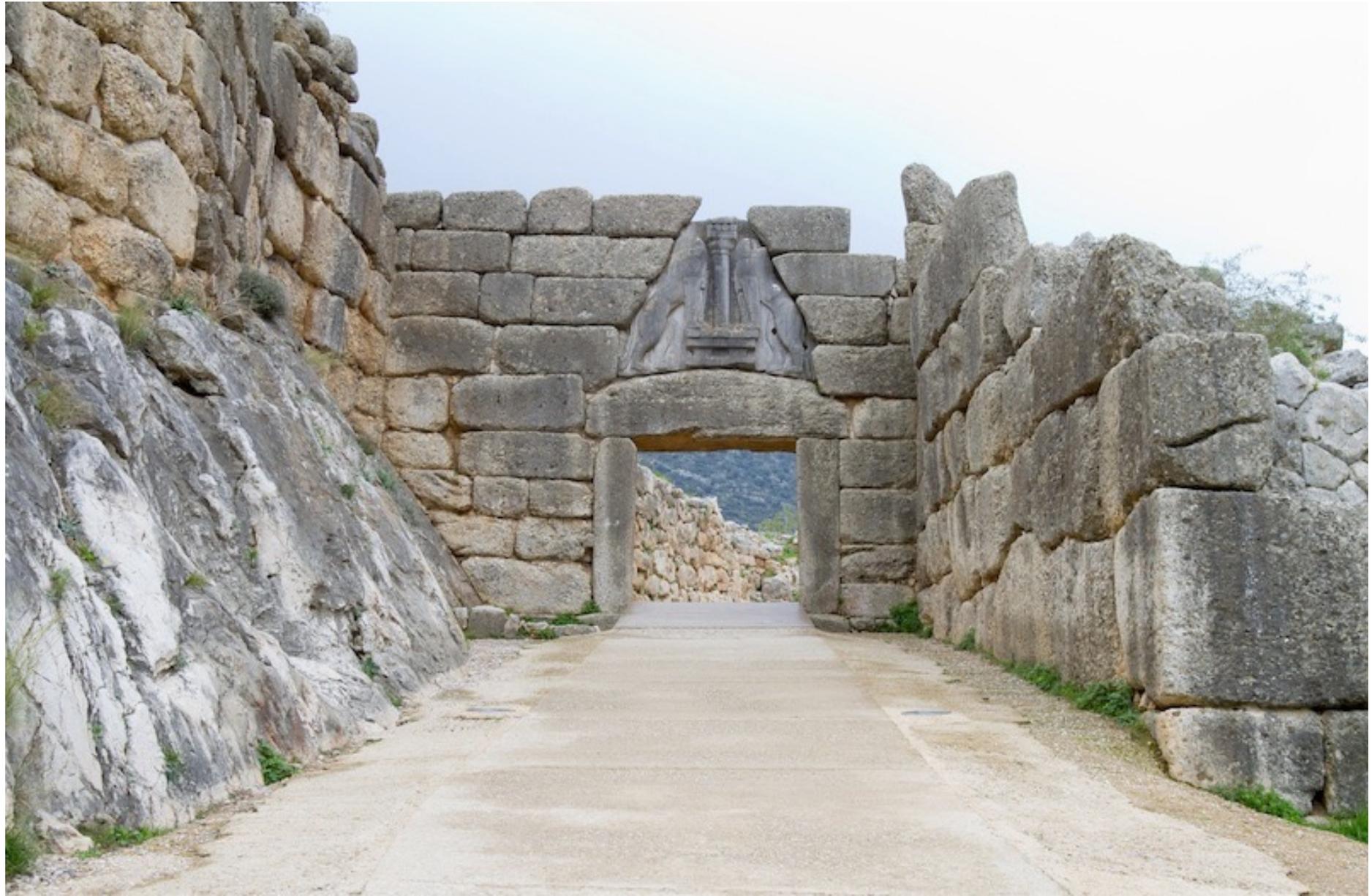
- The Mycenaeans shared much Minoan culture, but they were **more war-like** (bellicose)
- Built palaces with strong walls.
  - Fortified means strengthened and strongly protected
- Skilled at making metal weapons and armor
  - Many weapons and armor have been found in graves



# Mycenaean Culture

- prospered trading with other cities and islands
- Tried to expand their empire by conquering the Minoans
- Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are about Mycenaeans in the Trojan War.





# Mysterious End of the Mycenaeans

- Theory #1: The Dorians or the “Sea People” attacked the Mycenaeans.
- Theory #2: The poor revolted against the rich, because of mass debt slavery.
- Theory #3: The Mycenaeans caused their own doom by fighting too many wars.

A combination of all three theories makes sense, but which theory the the Mycenaean civilization collapsed? Turn to your elbow buddies and discuss.

- Cause #1: “Sea People” attacked.
- Cause #2: Mass debt slavery
- Cause #3: Doomed themselves through constant war.