

# Minoan Crete

# Minoan Civilization in Crete



# What can you conclude from these artifacts?





# Frescoes



# Bull-Vaulting: sport? or religious ceremony?





# Frescoes-Any of this look modern to you?



# Palace Walls



# The Evans Controversy

- Sir Arthur Evans caused controversy in the early 1900's when he went to Crete (a Greek island) and reconstructed a Minoan site called Knossos. Evans triggered debate when, after inferring what Knossos may have looked like by examining artifacts that he found, he recreated Knossos, architecturally and artistically based on his own vision of what the site may have looked like before it was destroyed. Sir Arthur Evans' reconstruction of Knossos was based on **how he imagined** the site; the reconstruction may actually be far from what Knossos actually looked like, but not enough artifacts were recovered to make the site a more accurate replica, thus prompting him to imaginatively re-create the rest of Knossos. He even made up large amounts of the frescoes—painted murals made out of plaster and embedded onto walls and floors-- since chunks of the frescoes were missing ; in fact, some fresco fragments are only a few inches in size. There's not much evidence that shows that his restorations on the frescoes are correct, as some of the parts on a few of the frescoes don't seem to go together; for all we know, most of the pieces of a specific fresco may actually belong to an entirely separate fresco! While Sir Arthur Evans *did* help us to picture Knossos by reconstructing the site, it *was*, after all, based on his own vision. For all we know, his reconstruction may be all bogus! While we have received conclusions about the Minoans (the people of Knossos) from Sir Arthur Evans, we have also been given false information.
- Question: Did Evans do the right thing in reconstructing Knossos according to his vision? Think about it. While the details may be inaccurate, it does convey to the viewer a sense of what it might have looked like. Its grandeur! Its creativity! Its power and prosperity! And is that more helpful than staring at ruins? Did Evans, in undertaking this restoration, preserve the integrity of the site or destroy it?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK? Answer in 5-8 sentences?