

Corona Borealis – The Northern Crown

Minos (my-nos)

Crete (kreet)

Theseus (thee-see-uhs)

Ariadne (ar-ee-ad-nee)

Minos, king of Crete, built a great labyrinth to imprison a ferocious Minotaur who was a creature with a human body and head of a bull.

The maze was so complex and confusing that even the designer of the maze was almost unable to find his way back to the entrance.

Each year, King Minos exacted, as part of the taxes paid to him by the people of Athens, twelve of the most handsome or beautiful young people to be placed in the labyrinth as food for the monster.

One year, Theseus, son of the King of Athens was selected as one of the tributes. Theseus was a strong, handsome man with many heroic qualities.

Minos' had a daughter named Ariadne. Ariadne fell in love with Theseus. Theseus offered to kill the Minotaur and Ariadne offered to help him if he would take her away with him when he escaped. He agreed and gave her a crown with seven beautiful jewels mounted on it.

She gave him a ball of magical thread and told him to tie the end to the door of the labyrinth so he could find his way out after he killed the Minotaur.

Theseus attacked and killed the terrible monster and then followed the magical thread and was able to find his way out of the labyrinth.

Theseus sailed away from Crete taking Ariadne with him. When Ariadne died, Zeus placed her crown in the sky and changed the jewels to seven stars, which can still be seen today as the constellation Corona Borealis, Ariadne's Crown.