The Athenians
Cecrops

- Born of the soil
  - Autochthonous
- Man with the body of a serpent
- First king of Attica
- Married Agraulus, daughter of Actaeus
Competition for the City

- Gods to assign cities to themselves
- Poseidon and Athena both want Attica
- Poseidon:
  - Offers a salt water spring
- Athena:
  - Offers Cecrops an olive tree
  - Athena wins, and the city is called Athens
Cranaus

- Cecrops died without a male heir
- Cranaus succeeded
  - At the time of the flood of Deucalion
  - He was the most powerful Athenian
  - Also autochthonous
  - Deposed by his son-in-law, Amphictyon
Deucalion = Pyrrha  
Cranaus

Amphictyon = Cranae

- Amphictyon ruled 12 years
- 'Amphictyon' means "neighbour"
  - Amphictyonic Councils
- Overthrown by Erichthonius
Erichthonius

- Athena wanted new armour
- Hephaestus fell in love with Athena
  - Tried to force himself on her but she repelled him
  - He ejaculated and the semen fell to the Acropolis
- Erichthonius sprung from the soil
Athena Scorning the Advances of Hephaestus
Paris Bordon ca. 1550
Erichthonius

- Overthrew Amphictyon
- Established the Panathenaeae
- Placed the wooden Athena on the Acropolis.
  - The Palladium of Athens
  - Athena Polias (Protector of the City)
This lineage, presented by Apollodorus, starts the debate.

- Are Erichthonius and Erechtheus the same?
- Does this version represent two myths combined?
- Under Erechtheus, Athens conquered Eleusis
- Butes was priest of Athena and founder of the Eteobutadae Family
The Polias Priestess

- Chief priestess of Athens
- 'First Lady' of sorts
- Always from the Eteobutadae
- Guardian of the temple treasury
• Oreithyia was loved by Boreas, the North Wind.
  – Their sons, Calais and Zethes, were Argonauts
• Procris married Cephalus
Cephalus and Procris
Alessandro Turchi (1578 – 1649)
• Pandion was expelled from Athens
  – Lived in Megara
  – His sons re-conquered Athens
• Aegeus became king
  – Expelled by Pallas
Aegeus and Aethra

- **Aethra**
  - Daughter of Pittheus, king of Troezen

- **Aegeus**
  - Visited Pittheus
  - Lay with Aethra and produced Theseus
Aegeus = Aethra

| Theseus

- Aegeus, king of Athens
- Childless
- Visited Troezen
- Aethra, daughter of Pittheus of Troezen
- Theseus raised by Aethra
• Aegeus did not marry Aethra.
• When Medea came to Athens, he married her.
Theseus

- When grown to manhood:
  - Was told of his true lineage
  - Found the sword under the rock
  - Made his way to Athens clearing the roads of robbers and monsters
Labours of Theseus

• 1. Killed Periphetes
  – An iron club wielding highwayman near Epidaurus

• 2. Killed Sinis
  – The ‘Pine Bender’

• 3. Killed the sow of Crommyon
• 4. Killed Sciron
  – Who kicked travelers into a pit near Corinth
• 5. Killed Cercyon in Eleusis
  – Who wrestled travelers
• 6. Killed Damastes
  – Who killed travelers in bed.
Raised in Troezen

Periphetes

Sow of Crommyon
Scyron

Damastes

Cercyon

Salamis
Theseus in Athens

- Medea, wife of king Aegeus:
  - Not wanting Theseus to succeed to the throne, she persuaded Aegeus to get rid of Theseus

- Theseus and Aegeus:
  - Theseus sent to kill the Bull of Marathon
  - Medea tried to poison Theseus
  - Last minute save
  - Medea banished from Athens
Medea offering poison to Theseus
Theseus and Peirithous

- War of the Lapiths and Centaurs
- The two abduct Helen (only 12)
- Castor and Polux attack Athens
- The two go to Hades to abduct Persephone
- Theseus rescued by Heracles
Aegeus = Aethra
  
  Theseus

• **Androgeus, son of Minos:**
  – Visited Athens to compete in games
  – Was killed

• **Minos:**
  – Seeking vengeance, invaded Attica
Deucalion = Pyrrha

Hellen  Amphyction  Protogeneia = Zeus

Dorus  Xuthus  Aeolus

- The descendants of Hellen are the Hellenes, the Greeks
- His sons divided Greece
The Minoan Saga

Hellen

| Dorus

| Tectamus

- Tectamus emigrated to Crete with an Aeolian and Pelasgian colony
- Tectamus was succeeded as king by his son Asterius
In the reign of Asterius, Zeus brought Europa to Crete.

Asterius married Europa and adopted the three sons she had by Zeus.

Minos succeeded as king.

Sarpedon and Rhadamanthus both exiled.
Minos

- Ruled from Knossos
- Married Pasiphae
- Developed a substantial navy
- Conquered and colonized the Cyclades
- Cretan law-giver
  - Eunomia
  - Lycurgus of Sparta obtained the Spartan laws from Minos
Minoans

- Discovered by Arthur Evans in 1900
- Palace structures as early as 2000 BC
  - Hieroglyphic script
  - Complete destruction ca 1600 BC.
- Rapid rebuilding program
  - Knossos
  - Vibrant trade with all surrounding regions
Knossos
Queen’s Chamber, Knossos
Knossos Throne Room
The Bull Fresco
Minoan Myth

• Arthur Evans
  – (Re)constructed an image of an idyllic, sophisticated and benevolent culture of artisans and traders

• Jacquetta Hawkes (1960s)
  – Imagined a feminist society of peaceful nature worshippers
Daedalus

- Grandson of Erechtheus
- Exiled from Athens for a murder
- Emigrated to Crete
- Founder of the arts of sculpture and architecture
- Constructed a wooden cow
The Cretan Bull

• Poseidon gave Minos a bull for sacrifice
• Minos substituted another
• Poseidon compelled Pasiphae to love the bull:
  – Pasiphae hid in Daedalus’ cow
  – The Bull mounted the cow
  – Pasiphae gave birth to the Minotaur
Labyrinth

- Minos had Daedalus construct a home for the Minotaur
- Daedalus built the Labyrinth
- After the conquest of Megara, Minos exacted tribute from the Athenians:
  - Seven boys and seven girls
  - Fed to the Minotaur
Daedalus and Icarus

• Minos imprisoned Daedalus and his son Icarus.
• Daedalus made wings:
  – Gathered feathers
  – Fastened with wax and string
• Icarus flew too close to the sun
• On the Hellenic Aviation Training Academy website....?
Mourning Icarus
Draper ca.1900
Theseus and the Minotaur

• Theseus volunteers to go to Crete
• Ariadne falls in love with Theseus
  – Gave Theseus a klew
  – Klew is a ball of string or yarn
  – Hence, clue in English
• Theseus killed the Minotaur and made his way out of the Labyrinth following the klew.
Niccolo Bambini, Ariadne and Theseus
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bambini,_Niccolo_-_Ariadne_and_Theseus.jpg
Theseus and Ariadne

- Theseus escapes Crete with Ariadne
- They stop at Naxos
  - Dionysus abducted Ariadne and took her to Lemnos
  - Ariadne was killed there by Artemis “because Dionysus accused her” (Od xi.324)
  - Or, Theseus abandoned her and Dionysus fell in love with her
Le Nain brothers 1635
Bacchus and Ariadne
The Black Sail

• **Aegeus:**
  – The tribute ship had black sails as a symbol of mourning
  – Aegeus told Theseus to spread white sails if he survived

• **Theseus**
  – In his grief over Ariadne, forgot the white sail
  – Aegeus, seeing the black sails, killed himself.
King Theseus

• Pallas, brother of Aegeus:
  – Opposed Theseus
  – He and his family killed in the civil war

• Theseus:
  – Synoicism of Attica
  – Founded the Panathenaeae
  – Founded the ‘government of the people’
• Divided the Athenians into three classes:
  – The Aristocrats
  – The Farmers
  – The Labourers
  – “To the aristocrats (eupatridae) he committed the care of religion, the magistracies and the supervision of the laws...” (Putarch Theseus 25.1)
Amazonomachia

• Theseus joined Heracles in the Amazon War.
• Carried off Antiope (or Hippolyta)
  – By whom he had Hippolytus
• Amazon counter attack repelled at Athens
  – Depicted on the West Metope of the Parthenon
Theseus and Phaedra

Minos = Pasiphae

Deucalion    Phaedra

• When Minos died, he was succeeded by his son Deucalion
• Deucalion gave Phaedra to Theseus in Marriage
Phaedra:
- Fell in love with Hippolytus, son of Theseus and Antiope
- Rejected, she accused him to Theseus who asked Poseidon to kill Hippolytus
- When Theseus discovered the truth, Phaedra killed herself
Joseph-Désiré Court
La mort d’Hippolyte, 1825
Phaedra, Alexandre Cabanel ca 1860
Death of Theseus

• Menestheus
  – Usurped the throne while Theseus was in Hades
  – Died at Troy later

• Lycomedes
  – Theseus came to Scyros
  – Killed by Lycomedes
  – His son, Demophon, succeeded the throne