



A Greek Myth: Daedalus and Icarus

A) Do you remember the myth of **Daedalus and Icarus**? Let's read the myth below.

Once upon a time there was a skilful craftsman and inventor named Daedalus. He lived in Athens with his son Icarus. He was so good at his art that the king of Crete, Minos, invited him to the island to build a prison for the Minotaur.

Daedalus travelled to Crete with his son and worked hard for the project. He built a maze – the Labyrinth – which king Minos used to imprison his enemies. The king was pleased with the Labyrinth but he did not want anyone to know its secrets. He could not allow Daedalus to leave the island. So he decided to put Daedalus and Icarus in a high tower and keep them prisoners there.

They got tired and decided to escape but Daedalus knew they couldn't escape by land or sea because there were guards everywhere. What did they do? While he was watching the birds, he had an idea. He knew they had to fly away from the island. He thought of making wings, he used feathers and connected them with wax. He taught his son how to fly but told him to keep away from the sun because the heat would make the wax melt, destroying the wings. He also warned him not to fly too close to the sea because the waves would make the feathers wet.

They climbed onto the windowsill and flew up in the sky. Icarus got so excited that he left his father and went higher and higher. He started flying close to the sun. His father was trying to make young Icarus understand that his behavior was dangerous but he didn't listen. While he was flying, the blazing sun melted the wax and Icarus' wings came off. He fell into the sea and drowned. His father cried and named the sea after his son, the Icarian Sea, and the small island nearby Icaria.

(adapted from <http://www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/myth-of-daedalus-and-icarus/>)

B) Answer the questions:

- Where did Daedalus and his son live?
- Why did he go to Crete?
- Why did King Minos put them in prison?
- What did Daedalus build?
- How did they escape?
- Why did Icarus fall into the sea?
- What is the morale of the myth?

Did you know?

The flight of Daedalus and Icarus was the first time that man managed to fight the laws of nature.

C) Underline all the verbs in the Simple Past. What do you notice?

We form Simple Past with but some verbs do not follow the rule and

For questions and negatives we use auxiliary verb and the verb

For irregular verbs in question and negative we use the auxiliary and the verb.



Now write the verbs under the correct heading.

REGULAR VERBS	IRREGULAR VERBS

D) Work in pairs. One of you is the Greek student who knows the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. Imagine that the other one is a student from England who wants to find out more about the myth. Ask questions about how it all started, the flight and the fall. Use question words: *how, what, when, where, why, who* with verbs in **Simple Past**. The student from Greece gives the answers.

E) Write the summary of the myth in a few sentences.

F) Watch the powerpoint presentation your teacher shows you with paintings and poems based on the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. Have a discussion based on them. Can you make your own drawing or write a poem based on the myth?