



# Geoglyphs

A geoglyph is a large pattern drawn or dug into the ground. They can usually only be seen from a plane or a high point. There are many kinds of geoglyphs and cultures throughout history have created many different styles and for different reasons.

## *The Labyrinth*

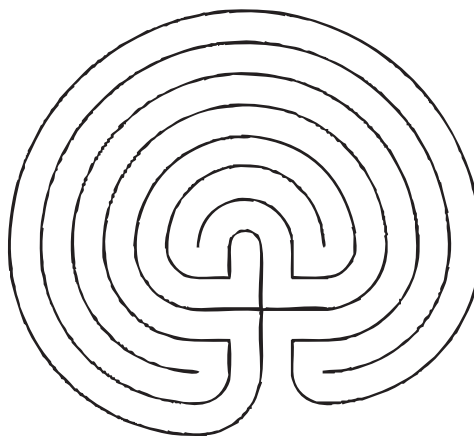
A labyrinth is a type of maze that is contained in a circle. Large labyrinths have been made by cultures all around the world. They can be worked out on paper but are much more difficult when you have to walk through them.

The ancient Greeks have a famous story about a labyrinth. A vicious monster, the Minotaur, lived in a great labyrinth. The Greek hero, Theseus, was sent into the labyrinth as punishment. Fortunately, he had a little help. A young girl who fell in love with Theseus helped sneak his sword into the maze, and gave him instructions on where to go. She also gave him a ball of string so that he could find his way back.

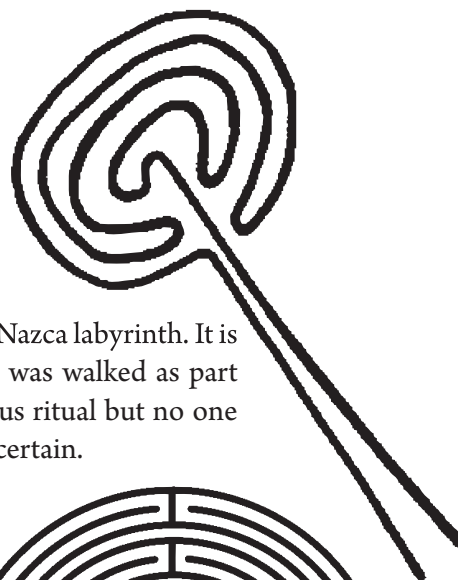
The Nazca people lived in the desert of Peru between 300 BC and 800 AD. There have been many recent discoveries of labyrinths and other geoglyphs that were carved into the desert. Some of them were several hundred feet across.

In Medieval times the labyrinth was used for religious purposes and they are often found in cathedrals.

Try to draw your own labyrinth!



This is considered the classical form of the labyrinth. This basic shape is found on many ancient Greek coins.



This is the Nazca labyrinth. It is assumed it was walked as part of a religious ritual but no one knows for certain.



This is considered the Medieval style of labyrinth. It can still be seen in many cathedrals.