Icarus, woodcut print, illustrated by Virgil Solis, 1569

Myth: Daedalus and Icarus

Minos, the king of the island of Crete, asked Daedalus, an architect, to build him a complicated labyrinth to lock up his prisoners. When Daedalus finished the Labyrinth, King Minos was very happy with his work, and placed a Minotaur – a creature that was half bull, half human, in the labyrinth for extra protection.

But, Daedalus did not keep the secret of the solution to the maze, and a prisoner was able to slay the Minotaur and escape. Needless to say, King Minos was angry, and he shut Daedalus and his son Icarus in the Labyrinth as punishment. Pasiphae, Minos' wife, however, released them. Daedalus fashioned wings of wax and feathers for himself and for Icarus to fly over the ocean and escape to Sicily. Daedalus warned his son not to fly too close to the sun, because the heat would melt the wax wings.

When Icarus took flight, he had so much fun soaring high above the ocean that he didn't notice how close he was getting to the sun. The wax of his wings began to melt, and he fell into the sea. Daedalus escaped and landed in Sicily but – he was devastated by the loss of his son. The island on which Icarus' body was washed ashore was later named Icaria.

Source:

http://www.britannica.com/topic/Daedalus-Greek-mythology