Linear B worksheet:

Websites to consult:

Wikipedia is not bad at all.

DAMOS: Database of Mycenaean at Oslo: <https://www2.hf.uio.no/damos/index/about>

Minoan Linear A and Linear B at Deaditerranean: <http://minoan.deaditerranean.com/about/>

Basic Questions:

Why “linear”?

Why “B”?

Who deciphered it and when?

How many signs are there?

Are they words, phonemes, syllables, letters, sounds?

Are any individual signs used for whole words?

Are any signs ambiguous? is any single sign both an ideograms and a syllabary sign?

Do we know who/how many people actually wrote it? how do we know that?

What sorts of things did they write?

What is the earliest example we have? the Latest?

What are the major sites?

What is it written on? How?

How many bits of text do we have?

Why/how was it preserved until today?

Some Challenging Samples: What are the Ancient Greek forms of the following words in Mycenaean syllabic:

*qa-si-re-u*

*ai-ku-pi-ti-jo*

*pa-te*

*pa-si*

*ko-no*

*to-ra-ke*

*put-te*

*phu-te-re*

*ti-ti-po*

*a-pi-qo-ro*

*qo-u-ko-ro*

*pe-ma*

*a-to-ro-qo*

*ko-no-so*

Is it a good system for the Greek language?

Were there separate /p/ and /b/ phonemes in Mycenean? How do we know that?

Why is there qa/qe/qi/qo and ka/ke/ki/ko/ku? the Ancient Greek alphabet had no q, right?

(hint: wrong: see the number system and the source of the Roman alphabet)

what about ja/je/jo? there is no j in the ancient Greek alphabet, is there?

What about the Classical Greek letters chi, psi, ksi, etc. that do not seem to be present in Linear B: are they? How?

How did the ideograms work? How many were there? and in what contexts were they found?

Take a stab at writing out your name in Mycenaean Linear B Script: first figure out how the phonemes of your name fit onto the apparent phonemes of Linear B, then find the symbols.