

## What the 5,300-year-old Iceman wore

22nd August, 2016



Picture - South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology

We now have a good idea of what kind of clothes people wore over 5,000 years ago. Scientists studied the pieces of material that were on the body of a man who died in Europe 5,300 years ago. His body was frozen under ice in the Alps Mountains.

Archaeologists discovered his body in a glacier in 1991. They called him Otzi the Iceman. They also found bits of clothing and Otzi's accessories and weapons. Scientists have analysed everything they found to get an idea of what early humans looked like, what they ate and what they wore. They even have an idea of what Otzi's voice sounded like. The scientists said Otzi provided "rare and valuable information" about how humans used animals five millennia ago.

The research team said Otzi's clothes were from several different animals. He had leggings that were made from goat leather. He wore a hat made from brown bear fur. Otzi's leather coat was stitched together from at least four different kinds of animal. His shoes were made from different kinds of grass. Otzi's body was also covered in 61 tattoos. Scientists say these were for pain relief for his aching joints and not for decoration. Otzi was 45 when he died, which was quite old for a man 5,000 years ago. He suffered from heart disease and had dental problems. Scientists say he did not die naturally. He was murdered. Someone killed him by firing an arrow at him, which hit him in the head.

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com) / [popsci.com](http://popsci.com)

## Writing

Archaeology is one of the most important things we can study. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

good idea / clothes / material / frozen / ice / accessories / weapons / valuable / research / leather / fur / grass / tattoos / pain relief / decoration / dental problems

## True / False

- Scientists studied bits of material worn by the Iceman. T / F
- The Iceman was found in the Andes Mountains in Peru. T / F
- Scientists think they know what the Iceman's voice sounded like. T / F
- Scientists say the Iceman gave them valuable information. T / F
- The Iceman had leggings made from bear skin. T / F
- The Iceman's coat came from four different animals. T / F
- There were a total of 16 tattoos on the Iceman's body. T / F
- The Iceman died from natural causes. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. kind       | a. a number of |
| 2. pieces     | b. examined    |
| 3. discovered | c. normally    |
| 4. analysed   | d. sewn        |
| 5. valuable   | e. bits        |
| 6. several    | f. killed      |
| 7. stitched   | g. type        |
| 8. naturally  | h. shooting    |
| 9. murdered   | i. important   |
| 10. firing    | j. found       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Otzi the Iceman?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What clothes do you think people wore 5,000 years ago?
- How fashionable might those clothes be today?
- Why did clothes start becoming fashionable?
- What do you want to know about Otzi the Iceman?
- What do you think Otzi the Iceman did every day?
- What was life like 5,000 years ago?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. His body was frozen              | a. body in a glacier in 1991 |
| 2. Archaeologists discovered his    | b. disease                   |
| 3. get an idea of what early        | c. used animals              |
| 4. Otzi provided rare and valuable  | d. from brown bear fur       |
| 5. how humans                       | e. under ice                 |
| 6. Otzi's clothes were from several | f. in 61 tattoos             |
| 7. He wore a hat made               | g. humans looked like        |
| 8. Otzi's body was also covered     | h. die naturally             |
| 9. He suffered from heart           | i. different animals         |
| 10. Scientists say he did not       | j. information               |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do we still need clothes made from leather and fur?
- What would you do if you had to make your own clothes?
- What did people do 5,000 years ago if they were ill?
- Why is archaeology important?
- Who might have murdered Otzi the Iceman and why?
- What age in history would you like to go back to?
- What could Otzi the Iceman teach us today?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Spelling

- pieces of mitlarea
- His body was oezrfn under ice
- Archaeologists dovrscedie his body
- Otzi's accessories and swoepan
- what Otzi's vceio sounded like
- rare and lavulbae information
- leersva different animals
- made from goat eahlrte
- ...coat was ittdshce together
- pain eleifr
- He suffered from heart ideseas
- He was urermded

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. d	8. c	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Archaeology

You think archaeology is the most important subject to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their subjects aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): music, religious studies or literature.

### Role B – Music

You think music is the most important subject to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their subjects aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): archaeology, religious studies or literature.

### Role C – Religious studies

You think religious studies is the most important subject to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their subjects aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): music, archaeology or literature.

### Role D – Literature

You think literature is the most important subject to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their subjects aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): music, religious studies or archaeology.

## Speaking – Subjects

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important subjects at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| • religious studies | • archaeology |
| • history           | • music       |
| • literature        | • geography   |
| • astronomy         | • art         |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.