

Ötzi

'The Iceman'

Chalcolithic (Copper Age)

He died 5,300 years ago

The Copper Age was about 3,500 to 2,300BC

In 1991, a German couple were hiking high up in mountains called the Alps (In Southern Europe). They found a body trapped in the ice. They first thought it was the body of a climber that had been lost... or even a dead soldier from World War One.

Soon, some local archaeologists came to inspect the body and they found that he had been in the ice for over 5,300 years.

The body was so well-preserved in fact, that it soon became clear that we could get a lot of information from it.

For instance, he had 61 tattoos on his skin, a lot of health problems when he was alive and the scary evidence that he had been killed, possibly hitting his head after being shot in the shoulder by a stone arrow!

He had lots of equipment on him, stone tools, flint dagger, a bow, a copper-headed axe, a quiver (arrow case) and even a wooden backpack. This was full of things that show he may have been a trader.

He was about 46 years old when he was killed and because of the pollen that was on him, it is thought that he died in the Spring. We also know that he ate a meal of grains, goat meat and even red deer meat just before he died. We will never know his real name, but as he was found in the Ötztal Alps (the border between Austria and Italy) he earned the nickname Ötzi.

Why not colour him in?

Use earthy colours like browns and light greens and yellows.

The axe head is copper so use a mixture of orange and yellow.

Name _____

Class _____

Ötzi was hit by an arrow in the shoulder, below is what the stone arrowhead may have looked like (we have made it bigger for you to see in this picture).



Can you label Ötzi?

Use these words to help:

Tunic

Bow

Boots

Axe (wooden handle with copper head)

Trousers

Backpack

Quiver (arrow case, hanging from his belt at the back)