

HIKERS FIND OLDEST FROZEN HUMAN MUMMY IN THE ALPS!

Article by Victoria, sidebar by Garrett, sketch & caption by Amelia

It was a hot, blue, clear and sunny day on September 19, 1991, when Erika and Helmut Simon were enjoying the outdoors mountain climbing in the Otzal Alps. This is a mountain range that lies between Austria and Italy. Often the Simons would climb the same narrow path that shepherds used to use many years ago. But that day, they decided to go on a different path and guess what? Suddenly they saw what looked like a naked doll. It had a brown head with a bony body sticking out of a muddy puddle of melting snow. But was it really a doll?

The Simons had actually found a human mummy that was 5,300 years old. Scientists named him Otzi because he was found in the Otzal Alps. Otzi was alive during the Copper Age. The Copper Age is when early people used metal. Early people might have used metal for tools, weapons and cooking utensils.

Seven people who worked with Otzi since he was discovered have since died unexpectedly! Some people now believe that Otzi was cursed! Helmut Simon, who discovered Otzi, was celebrating on the same glacier where he had found Otzi. He suddenly fell into the glacier and died feet from where his discovery had been. The fifth person who died didn't believe in the curse. He yelled out, "Next thing you know, I will die!" A couple of weeks later he died too!

Days after Otzi was found, scientists had a chance to look into his stomach to see his last meals which were bread, meat, herbs, and other plants.

Scientists thought it was important to look into Otzi's stom-

ach so they could see what early people might have eaten in the time period Otzi was alive.

At the site, scientists also found Otzi's belongings which were a quiver (a quiver is a long sack made of a deer skin) with fourteen arrows in it, an ax

This spearhead might have been used by Ötzi's people – they probably used it for hunting food.



with a metal blade head, two pieces of birch-bark containers for starting a fire, a shoe made from cowhide, a fur hat, a dagger with a flint blade and a scabbard (used to hold daggers).

Otzi is important and special to scientists because he is the oldest human mummy ever found preserved by ice. Otzi's possessions have given scientists a better look at what life was like during the Copper Age in Europe 5,300 years ago. Also, Otzi is important because his clothing is the first Neolithic ever found.

Otzi is important to us because he has answered many of the questions we had about early people. For example, Otzi has answered the question we had about what kinds of food early people might have eaten, what weapons and tools they used, what kinds of clothing some of the early people might have worn, and other things. If you would like to learn more about Otzi and his life style, I recommend you read Secrets of the Ice Man by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent.