

The Ötzi Story

1 New and unfamiliar words: match the words/phrases below with their meanings

Word/Phrase			Meaning
archaeology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The available facts or information that allow you to reach a decision or conclusion
glacier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Brown material consisting of partly decomposed vegetables, found in acidic and boggy areas and used for fuel
midden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The study of the remains of human culture through excavation
peat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A refuse heap, a heap of food remains
conclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	One piece of evidence seems to lead to a different conclusion from another
evidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Slow-moving river of ice
contradictory evidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A decision reached by reasoning

Ötzi was wearing an intriguing collection of clothing.



A reconstruction

•This included a grass cloak, specially made shoes that allowed him to walk in the Alps and a knee-length garment made of tanned goat leather.

•The shoes are particularly interesting because they were made of bear leather (sole) and deer leather (upper) and were carefully lined to protect Ötzi's feet from the cold.

•Ötzi was carrying some beautifully crafted tools, including the only perfectly preserved prehistoric axe ever found. While the axe was made of copper, his dagger was made of flint.

2 Highlight words that suggest Ötzi and his people were:

- skillful
- well-adapted to their environment
- able to work metal
- still using stone
- possibly herders
- possibly hunters

Phrases you can use to show you think something is likely to be true, but you cannot be certain:

- It is possible that...
- He/she might have been...
- The evidence suggests that...
- Perhaps...
- It is conceivable that...
- A possible conclusion is that...
- It is hard to be certain whether...
- It is possible/likely/probable/highly probable that...
- This could indicate that...
- One interpretation of the evidence is that...



3 Circle, highlight or underline the words in each phrase that suggest possibility and probability rather than certainty.

Ötzi the Iceman



Reaching conclusions from evidence:

Evidence	Conclusion (often stated as a possibility, not a certainty)
Stomach remains (deer meat and cereals)	He was probably a hunter. It is possible that he collected wild grains.

Note: We **draw** conclusions from evidence. This does not mean that we draw pictures. It means we reach, come to or work out a conclusion.

4 Write a short paragraph in your workbook about Ötzi, basing your text on the evidence presented on this handout. Use the following sentence starters or some of your own:

- Ötzi's varied clothing suggests that...
- The contents of Ötzi's stomach indicate that...
- It seems likely that Ötzi and his people were skilled in...
- The variety of tools that Ötzi was carrying shows that...
- It is probable that Ötzi and his people were still gaining food through...
- It is possible/probable that...
- Ötzi's shoes provide evidence that...