Cornell Notes activity

TED Talk: Albert Zink, “A 5,300 year-old murder mystery.” August 2023. <https://www.ted.com/talks/albert_zink_a_5_300_year_old_murder_mystery>

|  |
| --- |
| A 5,300-year old murder mystery V Jackson Aug 31 2023 |
| Sept 19 1991Otzi the IcemanHow did he die?FrozenActive but some long-term health issuesDied 3350BCE; late Neolithic Copper AgeMurder victimPollen and stomach contents tells us timingFlint arrowhead in his shoulder | Hikers found a corpse in the ice in the Austria/Italy border Alps.Mummified body, lived over 5000 years agoInitial theory: a hunter or shepherd who died in bad weatherGood preservation means we know a lot about him160cm/5’2” tall, 50kg/110lbs, died when 40-50yrs old; active but predisposed to cardiovascular disease; had ulcer; had wormsCarried a copper axe from Tuscany; clothes of sheep and goat leather, ate cultivated grains; 61 tattoos in areas where he was in pain, perhaps intended as treatment like acupunctureCut wound on his hand showed iitial healing, likely a defensive wound; dressed with bogmoss (antiseptic properties)It was spring/early summer based on stomach contentsWas fleeing from someone; three days before he died started at the 2500m altitude (timber line); 24 hours later he descended 1200m altitude, where there are warmth loving trees, then in final hours he was around 3000m where grasses and flowers dominatedShot from behind, likely died of bloodloss; his remains and belongings were left as they fell.Will never know who he was, why he was killed. |
| Summary: Hikers found a corpse in 1991, later dubbed “Otzi the Iceman”, who died 5,300 years ago as a murder victim. Good preservation means we learn a lot about his diet and lifestyle. He clearly had enemies because he was murdered; he was attacked, chased for days, and then murdered from behind with an arrow. |