

Section 1: Geography and History
The Beginnings of Human Society

Reading Readiness Guide

Anticipation Guide

How much do you think you know about the geography and history of the ancient world? As your teacher reads the statements, mark whether you think each statement is true (T) or false (F) in the Me column. Then discuss your answers with your group and mark the group's decision in the Group column. As you read, look for information that will clarify whether the statements are true or false.

After you read the section, read the statements again and mark the After Reading column to indicate whether they are true or false.

Before Reading		Statements	After Reading
Me	Group		
		1. About five thousand years ago, early civilizations developed systems of writing.	
		2. Iceman, whose frozen and preserved body was found in the Alps in 1991, lived about one thousand years ago.	
		3. Oral histories, stories passed down by word of mouth, often change as they are told and retold.	
		4. Prehistory is the period of time before humans inhabited the earth.	
		5. The rich soil caused by annual flooding of the Nile River helped Egyptian farmers grow large numbers of crops.	

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Guided Reading and Review

A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 1, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What did scientists learn from the Iceman's copper ax?

2. What other clues did scientists use to learn about the Iceman's life?

3. In what parts of the world did people first develop a system of writing?

4. Even though oral traditions might contain stories that are not historically accurate, what can they tell us about the past?

5. Why does the study of the geography of Egypt help us to better understand Egyptian civilization?

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

6. The recorded events of people are known as _____.
7. The period of time in the past before writing was invented is known as _____.
8. Scientists who examine objects to learn about past people and cultures are known as _____.
9. The written records studied by historians often began as _____, or stories passed down by word of mouth.
10. The study of Earth's surface and the processes that shape it are known as _____.

The Beginnings of Human Society

Primary Sources and Literature Readings**The Iceman**

by Don Lessem

In 1991, hikers in the mountains of northern Europe found the body of a 5,300-year-old man. It was perfectly preserved by the snow which had covered it for so long. Scientists of many kinds used information gathered from the man, who they named Ötzi, to create this picture of life in the Copper Age.

Ötzi and the everyday objects that were found beside him are unique and wonderfully preserved clues to daily life in a time that has long been mysterious. With their help, we can imagine what life might have been like in the Copper Age and how Ötzi lived and died. We can never be certain, but it may have been something like this:

Ötzi may have been a shepherd herding sheep, a trader trading stone and metal for tools, or even a medicine man in search of messages from gods. Whatever the reason, Ötzi had hiked high into the mountains. He was strong and well equipped, perhaps a leader among his people. The tattoo lines on his knee, foot, and back may have been religious emblems or a sign of his bravery or status.

Ötzi was a welcome visitor to the villages along his route. If he was a shepherd, he would have brought the villagers meat (since wool was not yet used for clothing). If he was a trader, he would have brought them flint for tools or copper for weapons.

Ötzi may have admired the villagers' talents. They used wheeled wagons and plows to farm. They sewed linen clothes and shoes expertly. They fed him butter and other delicacies.

The villagers may have been impressed with the hard flints Ötzi had brought—wonderful stones for making daggers and knives—and with his fine ax. But Ötzi would not part with the ax. He had traveled far to the south and traded away many of his belongings to the copper workers for his ax.

Ötzi was handy and so found many uses for his ax. He had been wielding it lately to make a new bow to replace the one he'd traded away or broken. It was a huge bow, taller than he was. It took all his strength to pull the bowstring.

Ötzi had been hunting since he was a child. He had learned to feather his arrows at an angle to make them spin in flight and hold their course. After crossing the mountains, Ötzi planned to finish his new bow and arrows. Then he could hunt in the woods for ibex, deer, and boar, and kill threatening bears and wolves. But for now, his mind was on traveling across the treeless high mountains in the thin, cold air.

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Primary Sources and Literature Readings (continued)

In the soft deerskin suit and grass cape made for him by the village tailors, Ötzi was dressed for chilly mountain weather. He had stuffed his shoes with mountain grass to protect his feet from the cold. He wore a fur cap on his head.

But the autumn air turned even colder than Ötzi had expected. He huddled in the shelter of a rock hollow. He was too cold and tired to eat the last of the antelope meat and berries he had brought with him.

Ötzi tried to start a fire. He had flint to strike a spark and strips of felt to help the fire along. But far above the tree line, Ötzi could find no branches to keep a fire going. Perhaps falling snow snuffed out the few sparks he had created.

Ötzi's only hope for survival was to move on through the mountain pass and down into the valley. But he was too weak to move. Maybe he was sick or injured.

Ötzi carefully laid his belongings, including his beautiful ax, against the rocks around him. He lay down to sleep on his left side atop a large stone as the snow fell through the frigid air.

Days later, when Ötzi did not appear, other shepherds, or friends from the village, may have come looking for him. If they came upon the spot where he lay down, they would have found only a blanket of snow.

In cold isolation, Ötzi had quietly died. Five thousand years later, his snow blanket was finally removed. At last Ötzi was found, along with his treasures. Their value is beyond measure, for they give us our best view yet of the lost world of our Copper Age ancestors.

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Vocabulary Builder

tattoo	permanent markings drawn on the skin
emblem	symbol
flint	stone that is easily flaked or cut into smaller pieces
wielding	using

Think It Over

1. What are some conclusions scientists have drawn about Ötzi? What clues do they use to support their conclusions?

2. Why do you think Ötzi's ax would have been so important to him?
