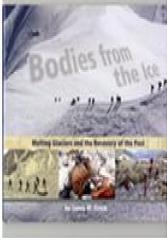


Name: _____

7th Grade Ancient Civ.: History Non-Fiction Summer Reading



Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past by James M. Deem, 2008

In 1991, mountain climbers on the Niederjoch Glacier on the Italian-Austrian border came across something unexpected: a body. It had been a very warm summer, and five bodies had already turned up in the area. But something here was different. The materials found with the body suggested it might be very old, perhaps from the 1800s. But radiocarbon dating proved the iceman was 5,300 years older, from the Copper Age. He was named Otzi and he is the oldest human mummy preserved in ice ever found. James M. Deem takes us on a captivating and creepy journey to learn about glaciers, hulking masses of moving ice that are now offering up many secrets of the past.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: WRITTEN ANSWERS (ON A SEPARATE PAPER) ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. STUDENTS CAN USE RESPONSES ON THE READING QUIZ. MUST BE INDIVIDUAL WORK.

1. If Otzi had fallen into a crevasse at the time of his death, would his body have been found in better condition or worse condition than it was? Explain your response with details from reading.
2. What evidence did scientists find that suggests Otzi lived during the Copper Age?
3. What evidence suggests that Otzi might have been murdered?
4. Scientists have determined that Otzi most likely died during the springtime. What evidence led them to this conclusion?
5. Explain the different parts of a glacier and how it moves.

6. When was the Little Ice Age and how did people react to it?
7. The chapter titled “Frozen Children of the Andes,” discusses the frozen mummies of five Incan children. Scientists are certain that their deaths were not accidents, but were sacrifices to the gods of the Incas. Discuss AT LEAST two pieces of evidence from any of these mummies that suggest these children were victims of a sacrifice.
8. The head of one of the Incan mummies was shaped like a cone or mountain, and tests on one of the mummy’s hair revealed that she began eating more meat a year before her death. What conclusion about how the Incans selected the children for their sacrifices did scientists draw from this evidence?
9. Today there is an ongoing debate about who was the first to climb Mt. Everest. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay officially reached the top in 1953, but they might not have been the first to do it. What evidence suggests that George Mallory was the first to climb Mt. Everest in 1924?
10. How is the government of Nepal trying to limit the number of tourists who attempt to climb Mt. Everest?
11. Although much younger, why was the body of Kwayday Dan Ts’Inchi found in worse shape than that of Otzi?
12. Why are the photos of glaciers today so much different than those that were taken ten years ago or a hundred years ago?
13. What are the problems that will arise as the glaciers die out?