Otzi the Iceman
When and where was he found

• On September 19th, 1991 two hikers from Nuremberg, Erika and Helmut Simon discovered a frozen body in the Otzal Alps which border Italy and Austria.
Location of find
Identification

• Not until archaeologists viewed the body and belongings in a lab was the Otzi man’s antiquity revealed. Despite the damage from recovery the body, was amazingly intact.
Recovery

- Workers who arrived at the scene dug with ski poles finding Iceman’s clothing and belongings.
What artefacts did they find?

- Investigators found many artifacts next to Otzi man’s body including a
  - copper axe,
  - a stone disk threaded with a leather thong
  - a piece of fungus on a string
  - bow-stave
  - arrows and quiver
  - a backpack (pannier),
  - two birch-bark containers,
  - a scabbard,
  - a net and a belt pouch, a cloak, a dagger, leggings and a bear fur hat.
What artefacts did they find?
How did Otzi man survive?

- Otzi man is one of the oldest, best preserved of all prehistoric corpses. Otzi has been naturally mummified and sealed in an airtight pocket by glacial ice. The body survived with its brain and internal organs intact. Ice pressure disfigured the nose and lip, and pushed up the left arm.
Examination

• Otzi man’s body at the time had undergone many tests to discover as much information about him as possible. The tests included CT-Scans, X-rays scans, Carbon dating, tissue samples and stomach contents were also chemically analysed.
What did the tests reveal?

The tests and examinations revealed the following:

- Otzi was male, about 45.7 years old and stood approximately 160cms tall (5’2”)
- Otzi had dark brown to black wavy hair
- Otzi’s body had a low level of lead pollution
- Otzi’s cholesterol reading was high and he had some blood clotting in his heart
What did the tests reveal cont...

- Otzi’s bone joints had started to degrade
- Otzi had some old rib fractures that healed on the left side of his body
- Otzi had 4 new ribs broken and out of place at the time he died.
- Otzi’s right arm had not been used for a couple of weeks before he died to stop his ribs from hurting.
- Otzi’s teeth were worn down.
What do archaeologist think Otzi looked like?

• John Gurche using forensic data from Otzi’s body placed these measurements into a three-dimensional computer imaging program to give him an image of what Otzi might have looked liked. Gurche then sculpted a replica of the skull and added clay to duplicate the features complete with hair, muscle and skin.
What do archaeologists think Otzi looks like?
What do archaeologists still want to know?

• Why he was in that area originally?
• Was he killed or did he die from an accident or was he a human sacrifice?
• How did he get his rib injuries?
• What do the markings on his body mean?
• Why were his belongings scattered near his body?
• The Iceman, *National Geographic*, June 1993.

• Unlocking the Past, J. Lawless, K. Cameron & C. Young, Nelson, 1996.