

New York Times July 7, 1991
**Frozen Remains Identified as
Early Human Ancestor**

Associated Press – Italy

A frozen body discovered by mountain climbers in the **Otzal Alps** of Italy has finally been identified as a 5,300 year old **Homo sapiens**, or “wise man”.

Archaeologists have been frantically working to quickly but carefully **excavate** the **fossil** remains that they have named Otzi, the Iceman. The well preserved remains of the body, the clothing, and the tools will help to shed some light onto daily life for early **Homo sapiens**. His clothing was made of three different types of animal skins that were stitched together. He had a fur hat, leather shoes with grass padding, and a grass cape. Yet, while his clothing showed definite signs of advancement over previous **hominids**, it was his tool kit that truly showed the technological skills of early **Homo sapiens**. Otzi carried a variety of compound stone tools such as a dagger and a bow and arrows, but he also had a copper ax, which suggests that early **Homo sapiens** were beginning to work with metals. While Italian archaeologists are still trying to determine why Otzi was in the mountains, they have speculated that he may have a high altitude shepherd. Moreover, analysis of Otzi’s stomach and clothing has revealed particles of **domesticated** grains, which also suggests that Otzi may have been part of a group that was permanently settled

Vocabulary Word Bank

Archaeologist: scientist who studies the past through the things people leave behind.

Excavation: the systematic process of digging up items from the past.

Hominid: early human ancestors.

Fossil: the remains of something that was once alive.

Homo sapiens: our own species that is more advanced than previous ancestors.

Domesticated: taking something wild and taming it to make it more useful to humans.

Otzal Alps: mountains located in Northern Italy.



Use the area below to take notes on **Homo sapiens**: