



➤ **Example:** Write your starting time on the line. Preview the passage and then read it all the way through to the end. Try to push yourself to read a little faster than usual.

The Frozen Man

Write your starting time _____

On a September day in 1991, two Germans were climbing the mountains between Austria and Italy. High up on a mountain pass, they found the body of a man lying on the ice. At that height (3,200 meters), the ice is usually permanent. But 1991 had been an especially warm year. The mountain ice had melted more than usual and so the body had come to the surface.

It was lying face downward. The skeleton was in perfect condition, except for a large wound in the head. There was still skin on the bones and the remains of some clothes. The hands were still holding the wooden handle of an ax. On the feet there were very simple leather and cloth boots. Nearby was a pair of gloves made of tree bark and a holder for arrows.

Who was this man? How and when had he died? Everybody had a different answer to these questions. The mountain climbers who had found the body said it seemed thousands of years old. But others thought that it might be from this century. Perhaps it was the body of a soldier who died in World War I. In fact, several World War I soldiers had already been found in that area of the mountains. On the other hand, a Swiss woman believed it might be her father. He had died in those mountains 20 years before and his body had never been found.

When Italian and Austrian scientists heard about the discovery they rushed to the mountaintop. The body couldn't possibly be the Swiss woman's father, they said. The boots, the gloves, and the ax were clearly from further back in the past. For the same reason, they said it couldn't be a World War I soldier. It had to be at least several centuries old, they said, maybe even five centuries. It could have been one of the soldiers in the army of Frederick, Duke of Austria.

Before they could be sure about this guess, however, the scientists needed more data. They needed to bring the body down the mountain so they could study it in their laboratories. The question was, whom did it belong to? It was lying almost exactly on the border between Italy and Austria. Naturally, both countries wanted the frozen man for their laboratories and their museums. For two days, the body lay there in the mountains while diplomats argued. Finally, they decided that it lay on Austrian ground. By that time the body was partly unfrozen and somewhat damaged.

When the Austrian scientists examined the body more closely, they changed their minds. They did not know yet how he had died, but they did know when: in about 2,700 B.C. This was a very important discovery, they said. It would teach them a great deal about this very distant period of European history. From the clothes and tools they could learn about how men lived in those times.

Write the time you finished reading _____

Subtract your starting time - _____

Your reading time is _____

➤ **Answer the questions on the following page.**



➤ **Do not look back at the passage. Circle the best answer.**

1. This passage is about
 - a. a soldier who died in World War I.
 - b. mountaintop discoveries.
 - c. how men lived in the distant past.
 - d. a frozen body found in the mountains.
2. The body was found by
 - a. some Austrian scientists.
 - b. a Swiss woman.
 - c. two German mountain climbers.
 - d. soldiers in the army of Frederick of Austria.
3. The body was in good condition because
 - a. it had always been frozen.
 - b. the scientists took good care of it.
 - c. the air was very dry.
 - d. it had just fallen there.
4. When the body was first found
 - a. everyone thought it must be 20 years old.
 - b. everyone had a different theory about it.
 - c. no one had any idea about where it came from.
 - d. scientists were sure it was thousands of years old.
5. When the scientists saw the body, they said it
 - a. might be five centuries old.
 - b. must be from this century.
 - c. was probably the Swiss woman's father.
 - d. probably was a soldier from World War I.
6. The body lay on the mountain for two days because
 - a. the Swiss woman didn't want anyone to touch it.
 - b. no one could find it.
 - c. the Austrian and Italian governments were fighting over it.
 - d. neither the Austrians nor the Italians wanted it.
7. After examining the body, the scientists said
 - a. the frozen man had died in war.
 - b. it was partly unfrozen.
 - c. the frozen man was almost 5,000 years old.
 - d. they did not know the cause of his death.
8. We can learn about how people lived in the distant past from
 - a. their feet.
 - b. their clothes and tools.
 - c. their museums.
 - d. the mountains.

➤ **Compare your answers to the Answer Key on page 289. Check any incorrect answers by rereading the passage. Also find your reading rate on page 273.**