THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S DISCOVERIES



with spectacular treasures to touch

RAKSHA DAVE
NATALIA CARDOZO

MAGIC CAT

HAVE YOU EVER FOUND AN OLD-LOOKING OBJECT ON THE GROUND AND WONDERED WHAT IT MIGHT BE?

*Maybe you've been digging in the garden or walking in the countryside and spotted something unusual in the ground – a clue from the past! Archaeologists call these objects **ARTEFACTS**. Each one has a story to tell, whether it's a piece of gold or an everyday tool.*

In this book we're going to discover:

ÖTZI'S COPPER AXE Page 4-5 · THE KING OF KISH'S WAR HELMET Page 6-7
THE GOLDEN HAT OF SCHIFFERSTADT Page 8-9
TUTANKHAMUN'S SANDALS Page 10-11
ANTIKYTHERA, THE FIRST 'COMPUTER' Page 12-13
A ROMAN DOG MOSAIC Page 14-15
VINKOVCI'S LION PLATE Page 16-17 · THE GOLD BELT BUCKLE OF SUTTON HOO Page 18-19
THE CHACOAN JET FROG Page 20-21 · THE LADY AND THE UNICORN TAPESTRIES Page 22-23
AND SEE ARTEFACTS THROUGH TIME! Page 24-25



WHAT ARE ARTEFACTS?

An artefact is something made by humans long ago. It could be a tool, a piece of jewellery, clothing or even a work of art. Artefacts are like little time machines — they give us clues about how people lived, what skills they had and where they came from.

HOW DO ARTEFACTS SURVIVE?

Not all artefacts last through time. Some rot away, while others get preserved by nature. The type of soil, the climate or even a natural disaster like a volcano can protect objects for us to discover.

SOIL PRESERVATION

Most artefacts end up buried in the ground. Sometimes they're put there on purpose, like in burials, storage pits or rubbish dumps. Other times they're lost by accident — dropped in a field, left in an abandoned building or even sunk underwater.

UNDERWATER PRESERVATION

Sunken artefacts, like shipwreck treasures, can be kept safe underwater. With little or no oxygen, things like pottery, stone and wood often survive. Even metal can last, protected by a hard crust of minerals that forms around it.

COLD PRESERVATION

Ice and snow act like a giant freezer, stopping things from rotting. Frozen remains can survive for thousands of years, from human and animal bodies to fragile objects like cloth, wood and rope.

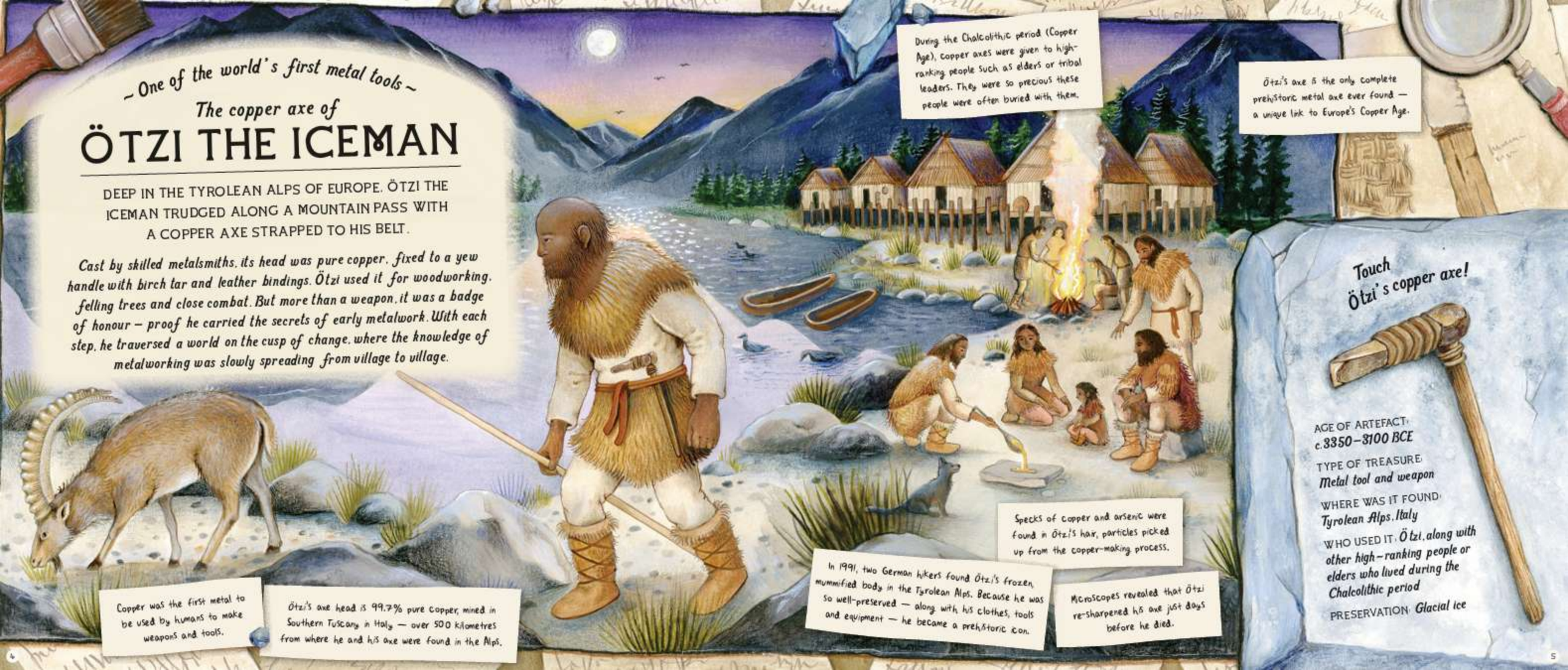
DRY PRESERVATION

Hot, dry places like deserts, caves and sealed tombs allow moisture to slowly evaporate. Without water, the tiny organisms that make things rot can't grow. This drying-out process is called desiccation.

WATERLOGGED OR MUD PRESERVATION

Bogs, swamps, marshes and springs are wet, airless places. Without oxygen, bacteria can't grow — so trapped objects are often preserved. This type of protection is called anaerobic preservation.

COLD PRESERVATION
SOIL PRESERVATION
DRY PRESERVATION
UNDERWATER PRESERVATION
WATERLOGGED OR MUD PRESERVATION


~ One of the world's first metal tools ~
The copper axe of
ÖTZI THE ICEMAN
DEEP IN THE TYROLEAN ALPS OF EUROPE, ÖTZI THE ICEMAN TRUDGED ALONG A MOUNTAIN PASS WITH A COPPER AXE STRAPPED TO HIS BELT.
Cast by skilled metalsmiths, its head was pure copper, fixed to a yew handle with birch tar and leather bindings. Ötzi used it for woodworking, felling trees and close combat. But more than a weapon, it was a badge of honour – proof he carried the secrets of early metalwork. With each step, he traversed a world on the cusp of change, where the knowledge of metalworking was slowly spreading from village to village.
During the Chalcolithic period (Copper Age), copper axes were given to high-ranking people such as elders or tribal leaders. They were so precious these people were often buried with them.
Ötzi's axe is the only complete prehistoric metal axe ever found — a unique link to Europe's Copper Age.
Touch Ötzi's copper axe!
AGE OF ARTEFACT:
c.3350–3100 BCE
TYPE OF TREASURE:
Metal tool and weapon
WHERE WAS IT FOUND:
Tyrolean Alps, Italy
WHO USED IT: Ötzi, along with other high-ranking people or elders who lived during the Chalcolithic period
PRESERVATION: Glacial ice
Copper was the first metal to be used by humans to make weapons and tools.
Ötzi's axe head is 99.7% pure copper, mined in Southern Tuscany in Italy — over 500 kilometres from where he and his axe were found in the Alps.
In 1991, two German hikers found Ötzi's frozen, mummified body in the Tyrolean Alps. Because he was so well-preserved — along with his clothes, tools and equipment — he became a prehistoric icon.
Specks of copper and arsenic were found in Ötzi's hair, particles picked up from the copper-making process.
Microscopes revealed that Ötzi re-sharpened his axe just days before he died.