

Name:



## ESSAY:

**WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (IMPORTANCE)**

**OF DISCOVERING**

**ÖTZI THE ICEMAN?**

- 1) Task:** Write an **informative essay** that describes the **historical significance (importance) of discovering Ötzi the Iceman**. Inform the reader of examples of what the **discovery of Ötzi teaches us about history**.
- 2) Please note:** these directions are exceptionally long. These extremely detailed directions are provided to assist students who may have missed the verbal instructions that Mrs. Looney has provided to the class. Mrs. Looney loves checklists! Use this as a checklist to be sure you are completing all of the necessary steps to ensure that you are writing a powerful informative essay.
- 3) Writing a powerful essay is a long, wonderful process. Please be patient** with yourself as there are many steps involved. If you follow these steps and suggestions, put in a sufficient amount of time, work your hardest, and ask for help along the way, I guarantee that this essay will be fantastic!
- 4) Each one of you have the potential to be a fantastic writer. Being a fantastic writer takes a ton of patience, hard work, and time.**

- 5) **Follow all of the steps** found in these directions to help you write the best essay that you are able to write.
- 6) **Annotate these directions.** We may annotate by **highlighting** one word, a few words, or a sentence at a time. (**We usually do not highlight more than one sentence in a paragraph** to avoid getting "highlighter happy" and to avoid highlighting too much. Highlighting too much is not efficient or effective.) We may annotate by adding comments, suggestions, questions, or symbols. Some symbols that you could use to annotate are stars, circles, rectangles, exclamation points, question marks, smiley faces, etc. We may also annotate by drawing on the text.
- 7) One of the most important steps of writing a powerful informative essay is understanding the question and understanding what you are being asked to write. If you do not have a complete understanding of the task, please discuss this with your teacher and with other students until you fully understand what you are being asked to write about. You cannot fulfill the task if you do not understand what you are being asked to do. **To help you understand the task, highlight the key words in the task.** You will use these key words in your RESTATE, in your introduction, in your topic sentences, and throughout your essay.
- 8) **Key words** are that most important words that summarize what the essay will be about.
- 9) **What are the key words in the writing task above?** If you have missed out on the class discussion about the **key words** in this writing task, send Mrs. Looney a Chat with the words that you think are the **key words** and we can discuss what you came up with. In this task, there are about four **key words** that you should use throughout each paragraph in your essay. Can you find all four key words?

- 10) Login to the **online social studies magazine** (HMH Ed: Your Friend in Learning platform). Google "Ed Your Friend in Learning." Google will bring you to "HMH Login-Ed Your Friend in Learning."  
<https://www.hmhco.com/one/login/>
- 11) Login to the HMH Ed: Your Friend in Learning platform. Select your **state (New York) and school district (Scio)** to get started. To login, your username is your **first initial and your last name**, all lowercase, and no space. **The password is: sciotigers** (lowercase, no space). For example, if your name is Lisa Looney your username would be: llooney and your password is sciotigers.
- 12) After you are logged in, click on "**Discover**" at the top of the page. Then click on the Module 2: The Stone Ages and Early Cultures. You will read about, annotate, research, and write about **Ötzi the Iceman**.
- 13) **Online Social Studies Textbook:** Most computers will open up the magazine when you click on it. **If it doesn't open immediately**, you may need to click on "**Student Edition**" in the **Resource section** below the modules. And then you will need to scroll through the module numbers and the topics to find the topic that you are interested in reading, annotating, and researching about **Ötzi**. Hopefully you won't have this issue and **hopefully your magazine will open up immediately**.
- 14) If you do not have access to the internet at home, use the **TEXTBOOK PDF** that we downloaded onto your desktop for your information and research.

- 15) Begin reading about **Ötzi** in the textbook and in the articles. As you are reading the articles, pay close attention to the information that teaches us about life during the time that **Ötzi was alive**.
- 16) As you are reading, **annotate**. You may annotate **by highlighting a quote or idea you might wish to use in your essay**. You may also highlight ideas that you might want to add to the introduction or conclusion. **Be sure to save the note before you close the note**.
- 17) As you are reading the contents of this online textbook, notice the **visual features and text features** that are presented. Be sure to notice and analyze these features to help you better understand the text and to help you remember what you are reading. For example, do any of the drawings or photos give you any information about the historical significance of discovering artifacts from the past?
- 18) What are **features**? **Features** are characteristics; special details that help us understand and remember information.
- 19) Nonfiction texts include **features** that help us to navigate the text and learn information about the text. They are like signs. They help us to find our way.
- 20) **Visual features:** These **features** help us picture something. Some examples are photographs, illustrations, drawings, diagrams, charts, graphs, and maps.
- 21) **Text features:** These **features** are made up of words. Some examples are the use of bold print, captions on photographs, titles, labels, headings, index, table of contents.

- 22) Once you have read the texts and have highlighted and taken notes you will need to **choose three of the best quotes that you have highlighted to use in your essay.**
- 23) You are now ready to begin writing your essay.
- 24) Your essay will be **AT LEAST five paragraphs long.** See the sample outline at the end of these directions for guidance.
- 25) We will use the **RACER graphic organizer for all of our informative essays and all of our short answer responses.**
- 26) Refer to the **RACER Graphic Organizer, the RACER Rubric, and the RACER Writing Prompts** to help you write a powerful essay. These documents are found in the **RACER Folder** on the desktop of your computer, on the Resources Page of Mrs. Looney's website, and in TEAMS files found in the Writing TEAM. On top of the General Channel there are Files. Click on Files. There is a folder in Files that has all of the resources that you need for RACER. (The folder is conveniently called "RACER.") My goal is to add that folder to both the Writing Team and to the Social Team and to all of the Channels within those Teams, but have not done so yet.
- 27) **Begin your introduction with a restate of the writing prompt. Go back to the task on the top of the page and notice the key words in the writing prompt. You are going to use these key words in the introduction and in each of your topic sentences and throughout your essay.**

28) There are about **four key words** that should be used in your **introduction, in your conclusion, and throughout your paragraphs**. The key words are: **historical significance, importance, discover, Ötzi**.

29) Later in on the school year we will focus on writing compelling introductions with hooks that will grab the reader's attention, usually four or five sentences long. **At this point**, I will accept a basic introduction that might be only **two or three sentences** long.

For example:

The discovery of Ötzi the Iceman was historically significant. Because of him, we have learned much about the time period over 5,000 years ago. His discovery informs us about the life-style of people who lived in that time period.

### 30) **RACER GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**

#### 31) **(R) STEP ONE: RESTATE**

32) The first step in using **RACER** is to **RESTATE** the writing prompt in your own words. This is called your claim.

33) We **RESTATE** the writing prompt in the **introduction**.

For example: **The discovery of Ötzi the Iceman was historically significant.**  
(This is an example of your claim.)

34) We also **RESTATE** parts of the writing prompt in the **topic sentence** of each new paragraph. **The topic sentence is the first sentence of each new paragraph and is very important as it tells the reader the main idea of the paragraph and exactly what that paragraph is about.**

For example: Because of the discovery of Ötzi, historians are able to infer what types of food was eaten during the time period that he lived.

### 35) **(A) STEP TWO: ANSWER**

36) The second step in **RACER** is **ANSWERING THE QUESTION**. Many times the answer is found in the **RESTATE**. Learning about the "types of food that was eaten" is part of the answer found in the restate.

### 37) **(C) STEP THREE: CITING EVIDENCE**

38) The next step in **RACER** is **CITING evidence**. Choose one compelling quote from the text (**one quote per paragraph**) that is related to the answer and proves the answer. **The compelling quote is usually ONE sentence long.**

39) Another tactic that will make your writing more powerful is to use **sophisticated language**. Using **descriptive words** will make your writing more interesting and intelligent. Using **transition words** is another simple way to bring your writing to a higher level. Use transition words to **cite the evidence** by referring to the **"What does the text SAY?"** writing prompts.

For example: The author plainly asserts, “

## 40) **(E) STEP FOUR: EXPLANATIONS**

41) The next step in **RACER** is the **EXPLANATIONS**. This is a crucial step in the process and seems to be the hardest step for writers. In order to write a powerful essay, **I HIGHLY recommend that you write THREE sentences of explanations in EACH of your paragraphs**. Other teachers will tell you to write two explanations, but if you want to get **FULL CREDIT** on your writing, and you want your reader to know how smart you are, **I HIGHLY recommend that you write THREE explanations in each of your paragraphs**. This is a very difficult task and will take much thinking and hard work on your part, but **I guarantee that if you do the work now, you will be a pro at this by the end of sixth grade**. But you must put the time and effort in now and with every essay you write. **I promise you that writing explanations will get easier as time goes on.**

42) Once again, using **sophisticated language, descriptive words, and transition words** will make your writing more interesting and intelligent. **Use the “What does the author MEAN?” and/or the “Why does it MATTER?” writing prompts** to give you ideas on how to start your explanations.

43) Explain the answer while using **KEY WORDS** from the text. Remember the key words that were in the writing prompt? Use some of those words in your explanations.



- 44) Make sure that you explain the quote and the answer in ways that are related to the task and relevant to the question being asked.
- 45) Use **at least three sentences in your explanations. Your first sentence of the paragraph (the topic sentence) can be used as one of the three explanations.**

#### 46) **(R) STEP FIVE: RESTATE**

- 47) The last step in **RACER** is to **restate the answer and restate the claim in the conclusion.** At this point you will write a concluding statement that is **compelling** and is at least **two** sentences long. Later on in the school year we will focus more on writing powerful conclusions. At this point, writing a conclusion with only two sentences is acceptable. We will focus on writing four sentences in our conclusion in our next essay.

**CONCLUSION** example:

**Many historically significant facts have been revealed because of the discovery Ötzi the Iceman. The valuable discovery of Ötzi the Iceman is historically significant because scientists were able to learn about the early people by studying Ötzi. I look forward to new discoveries and all that can be learned.**

#### 48) **PROOFREADING AND REVISIONS**

- 49) Another **EXTREMELY important step** in writing powerful essays is the proofreading and revisions. This step can take a very long

time, if done properly. Read each word and each sentence very carefully. As you are **rereading and rereading and rereading** each word and each sentence, check for spelling, but also check to **see if there are more interesting words you can use to make your sentences sound more intelligent and more sophisticated.**

- 50) Be sure to **INDENT EACH NEW PARAGRAPH!**
- 51) Be sure to **CHECK YOUR SPELLING!**
- 52) **ARE YOU USING CAPITAL LETTERS CORRECTLY?**  
Did you capitalize all the **proper nouns**? Did you capitalize the **beginnings of each sentence**?
- 53) Did you put periods, question marks, or exclamation points at the **end of your sentences**?
- 54) Did you follow all of the suggestions in the very long list? If so, **CONGRATULATIONS!** I am so glad that you are taking pride in your work. I am so proud of you for pushing yourself and doing the very best that you are able to do.
- 55) See the sample outline below.
- 56) You may use the template below to start typing your essay write on this document.

## **SAMPLE ESSAY OUTLINE: Historical Significance of Ötzi**

**\*\*\*Note: RACER is used within each paragraph.**

### **PARAGRAPH ONE: Introduction Sample (RESTATE)**

**The discovery of Ötzi the Iceman was historically significant. Because of him, we have learned much about the time period over 5,000 years ago. His discovery informs us about the life-style of people who lived in that time period.**

### **PARAGRAPH TWO: First example of what can be learned from the discovery of Ötzi.**

- **RESTATE/ANSWER (topic sentence)**
- **CITE EVIDENCE (quote)**
- **EXPLANATION #1**
- **EXPLANATION #2**
- **EXPLANATION #3**

### **PARAGRAPH THREE: Second example of what can be learned from the discovery of Ötzi.**

- **RESTATE/ANSWER (topic sentence)**
- **CITE EVIDENCE (quote)**
- **EXPLANATION #1**
- **EXPLANATION #2**
- **EXPLANATION #3**

### **PARAGRAPH FOUR: Last example of what can be learned from the discovery of Ötzi.**

- **RESTATE/ANSWER (topic sentence)**
- **CITE EVIDENCE (quote)**
- **EXPLANATION #1**
- **EXPLANATION #2**
- **EXPLANATION #3**

### **PARAGRAPH FIVE: Conclusion Sample (RESTATE)**

**Many historically significant facts have been revealed because of the discovery Ötzi the Iceman. The valuable discovery of Ötzi the Iceman is historically significant because scientists were able to learn about the early people by studying Ötzi. I look forward to new discoveries and all that can be learned.**

**Name:**  
**Mrs. Looney**  
**Writing 6**  
**Date:**

**Title of Essay:**