Battle Theory

Source: Mysteries in History - Ancient History by Wendy Conklin

There was an intense border dispute between the people at that time, and a battle occurred to solve it. Ötzi fought in this battle.

DNA samples were gathered from Ötzi’s weapons, clothing, and tools. Blood from four different people was found on these items. The blood found on his dagger was from one individual. Blood from two individuals was found on his arrow. On his coat was another individual’s blood. How did this blood get there?

Did Ötzi carry an injured companion to safety before being hit himself? His injured friend bled onto his coat as he was carried. His DNA was found in the samples.

Ötzi used his two good arrows to kill two others in some sort of boundary dispute. He retrieved these arrows and was trying to fix his other arrows for another attack. Before he could do so, he was shot in the back.

Before he died, Ötzi arranged his belongings on the ledge around him and then slumped over.
Assassination Theory

Source: Mysteries in History - Ancient History by Wendy Conklin

Ötzi's joints had very little deterioration, which means he probably did not perform many physical tasks. What kind of job did Ötzi have? Was Ötzi a community or religious leader?

Ötzi could have been assassinated in a power-play conflict. He did not suspect the arrow that came from behind. Did some of the village people not like his politics or religious service to the community? Maybe one of his followers had a disagreement with him and murdered him.

Ötzi also had some mushrooms known for their medicinal value. Was he a medicine man, like a shaman (religious leader), who used his powers to heal people?

Ötzi had mysterious tattoos on his body. Did these markings have religious significance? Was he a shaman or religious leader?

Copper axes were valuable and a sign of power. Some say that only a leader would own an axe like this one.
Accident Theory

Source: Mysteries in History - Ancient History by Wendy Conklin

* His body was so well preserved that most scientists think that he froze quickly after his death. The cold turned his body into a mummy with yellow, leathery skin.

* Because the weather can change rapidly in the Alps, some scientists believe that Ötzi could have died of hypothermia. Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops significantly. In other words, many think that Ötzi froze to death.

* Many claim that it is easy to become disoriented in the Alps. Could Ötzi have lost his way and died of hypothermia?

* Ötzi’s muscle tissue was badly decomposed, as was the outer layer of his skin. This can happen when a body is submerged in very cold water. Did Ötzi fall through thin ice into water and was not able to escape?

* When suffering from hypothermia, sometimes a warm sensation can overcome a person’s body. Ötzi was found without his clothes on. Did he remove his clothing as he felt this warming sensation of hypothermia?

* The hole in the back of the head probably came from a pecking bird.
Robbery Theory

Source: Mysteries in History - Ancient History by Wendy Conklin

* Many villagers back then were shepherds. Was Ötzi a shepherd, too? Ötzi had on a cloak and leggings that would have kept him warm in the Alps as he was moving his flock.

* During that time of year, it was common for shepherds to move their flock to pastures in the Alps. Was Ötzi in the mountains at the time with his flock?

* Ötzi had pollen in his stomach. This pollen is found in the spring on trees where shepherds commonly led their flocks. Was Ötzi leading sheep through that pass?

* A one-inch arrowhead made from flint was found in the iceman’s left shoulder. The arrowhead tore through the nerves and the blood vessels, shattering his shoulder blade and paralyzing his left arm. There are signs of heavy internal bleeding. Medical examiners have determined that the iceman died probably three hours after he was shot with the arrow and that his death was probably very painful.

* The robbers saw his flock and wanted it for their own profit. When Ötzi saw the men coming after him, he ran away. Did the robbers pursue him and shoot him in the back with an arrow, kill him, and then take his sheep?