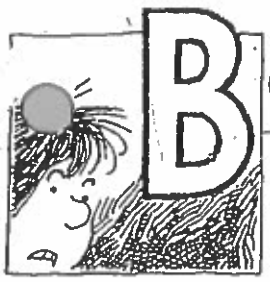

Bog bodies

Things rot so easily that it's amazing anything has lasted at all. But a quick glance around a museum will tell you that some things have lasted for thousands of years. They lasted because somehow they were protected.

You can see why the Danish farmers who discovered this body called the police. They thought they'd found the victim of a recent murder. In fact, this man died over 2000 years ago!

Tollund man was named after the place where he was found, a bog called Tollund Fen. A bog is a very old wetland where scrubby trees and low plants grow between pools of open water. Tollund man lasted because he was buried in a bog. Why? For two reasons.

...other side...

1. FIND AN IMPORTANT FACT.
2. WRITE FACT DOWN IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND IN A PHRASE.
3. REPEAT UNTIL FINISHED.

First, bog water stands still. The oxygen in it was sed up long ago. Without much oxygen, most bac-ria can't live. And without bacteria, many things ecay very slowly.

And second, although a bog doesn't have much xygen, it does have a lot of tannic acid. That's the ame acid that's in tea. This tea-like bath takes years brew. It's made up of decaying bog plants. The og water soaked into Tollund man and tanned him ke leather. It made him a poor meal for the few sects and bacteria that lived in the bog.

The bog protected Tollund man well, right down his fingernails and the short beard on his face. is brain and his inner organs were whole. Scien-ere even able to take what was left of his last eal from his stomach and intestines. It was prob-ly a thin porridge made from grains and seeds.

How did Tollund man end up in the bog? Scien-ts know he died a violent death because he was und with a leather noose around his neck. Per-ps he was a criminal. But more likely, he was lled as a sacrifice. Two thousand years ago, many uropeans believed in a goddess of the earth. They ought that unless they sacrificed a living person her in the middle of the winter, spring would t come, crops would be poor and all the people ould suffer.

Informative writing makes sure the reader learns at least 5 ideas by the end of the article.

Who?:

What?:

Where?:

When?:

Why? (is it important) :

Answer the 5 W's for the Bog Bodies article.