

## **NEWS BREAK**

Article: **Melting glaciers expose frozen WWI relics**

Section: **MAIN, A17**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, May 9, 2021** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

### **Standards:**

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### **Objectives:**

***Students will talk about this new discovery and what the researchers will learn about this time period and how these soldiers lived. They'll discuss why historians are calling the discovery a "time machine" and whether they think the park will raise awareness about the impacts of climate change.***

## Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only these pictures?
- Are there any clues?
- What can you infer?

## Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

As glaciers melt and shrink in the Alps of northern Italy, long-frozen **relics** of World War I have been emerging from the ice.

### **Relic Guess:**

### **Relic Definition:**

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. As glaciers melt and shrink in the Alps of northern Italy, long-frozen relics of World War I have been emerging from what?
2. What are some of the things they have found?
3. They were found on Mount Scorluzzo, which reaches more than 10,000 feet above sea level in northern Italy, near Switzerland. The Austro-Hungarian soldiers who occupied those barracks were fighting Italian troops in what became known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. There in the Alps — removed from the more famous Western Front, a site of bloody trench warfare between Germany and France — troops climbed to precarious heights in the stinging cold to carve \_\_\_\_\_ into the rock and snow.
5. The weather that tested the troops on Mount Scorluzzo ultimately preserved their barracks, freezing the entrance shut after soldiers abandoned their post at the end of the war in 1918. The structure was essentially impenetrable for decades — until 2017, when enough of the ice and snow had melted, allowing \_\_\_\_\_ to enter.
6. The barracks have been excavated, revealing items left behind and offering a fuller glimpse of the people who lived in the cramped space more than a century ago. The barracks, in Stelvio National Park, are “sort of a \_\_\_\_\_,” said Stefano Morosini, a historian who coordinates heritage projects for the park and is a professor at the University of Bergamo in Italy. “We are interested not only in a historical way, but also in a scientific way.”
7. I think it is important that we use the park as a study area to raise awareness about climate change,” he said. In the White War, most of the soldiers who died were believed to have been killed not by the fighting, but by what? What were their living conditions like high up in the mountains?
8. “We are interested in the relics that show the extreme environmental conditions, and the extreme life conditions of these soldiers.” No bodies were found in the barracks, though frozen corpses of people who fought in the White War have appeared nearby. Researchers did, however, find at least one sign of life, said Alessandro Nardo, the director of the park. What did they find?

### **Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***

The barracks, in Stelvio National Park, are “sort of a time machine,” said Stefano Morosini, a historian who coordinates heritage projects for the park and is a professor at the University of Bergamo in Italy. “We are interested not only in a historical way, but also in a scientific way,” he added. “How was the pollution? How were the epidemiological conditions in the barracks? How did the soldiers sleep, and how did they suffer? What did they eat?”

- ***What things do you think the scientists/researchers will learn about this time period and how these soldiers lived that high up in the mountains?***
- ***Why did the historian call this discovery a “time machine?”***
- ***Do you think the park will raise awareness about the impacts of climate change? Why or why not?***

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.  
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