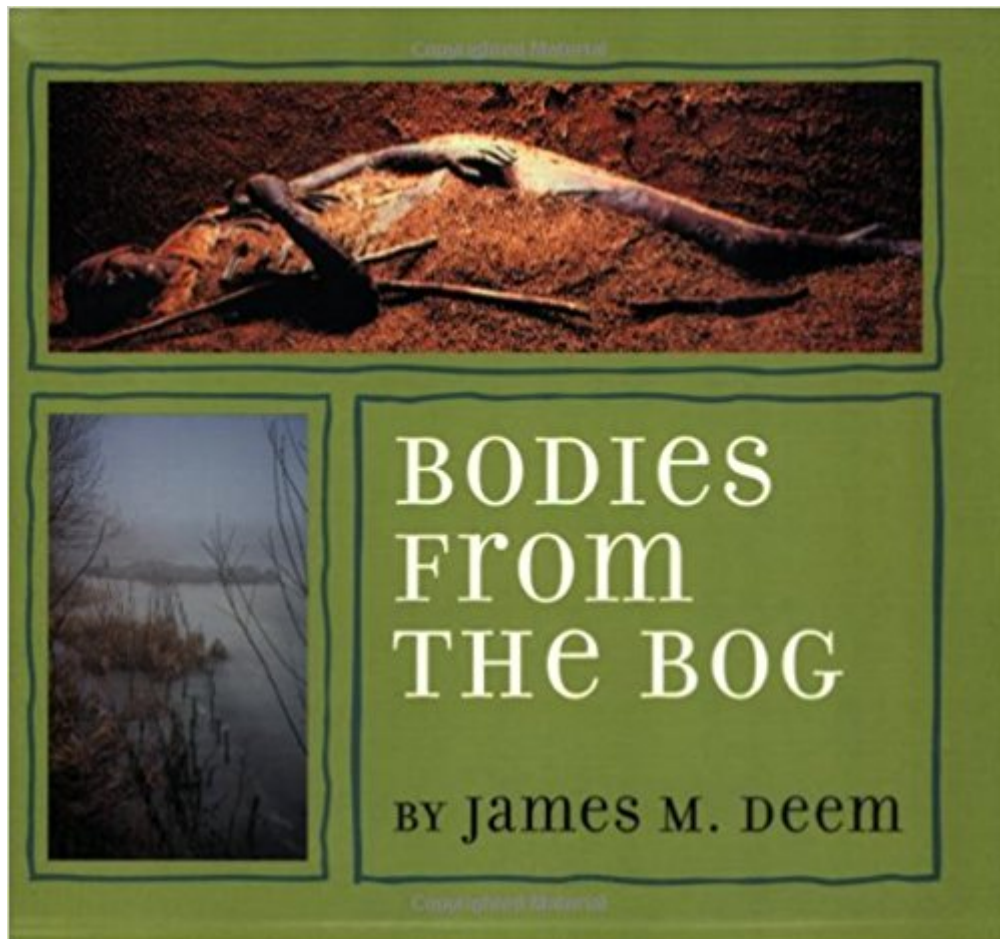


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Bodies From The Bog



Synopsis

One morning in April 1952, Danish workmen digging in a peat bog near the town of Grauballe made an astonishing discovery: the body of a man preserved in the bog, his face flattened by the weight of the peat and his skin as brown as the earth in which he lay. Who was this man, and how had he come to be there? With striking photographs and engaging text, James M. Deem tells the story of Grauballe Man and other bog bodies discovered in European peat bogs. He explains who they were, how they lived and died, and how their peat graves acted to preserve their bodies so well.

Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,247,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Archaeology #113 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric #395 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

James Deem starts with the story of the discovery of the famous Grauballe Man from Denmark. In the spring of 1952, when a group of men were digging in a partially drained bog, they made an unexpected discovery. About three feet below the surface, their shovels struck the head of a man. That man has since become known as the Grauballe Man, whom scientists have examined to determine age, last meal, and probable cause of death. Feeling curious? So was I, proving that Deem did his job of creating a good lead chapter. Next, Deem steps back in history to describe the earliest reports of bog bodies. The first written reports of such discoveries come from the 1600s. He briefly describes several of these accounts and includes many photos to illustrate his examples. Only after Deem has reeled us in with his multiple tales of death does he turn to the life in a bog.

By now, we're ready to read about how those cold watery bog graves came about. After discussing other important finds, which are less morbid and more the stuff of routine archeology, Deems steps forward again to talk about how scientists examine a bog body. Most telling in this chapter is how much and yet how little scientists know. I found it amazing that merely by studying the contents of a body's stomach, scientists could figure out the season in which that person had died. At the same time, how a person died seems to remain mostly speculation. Perhaps they were criminals or sacrifices. On the other hand, they might just have been drowning victims or even suicides. I appreciated how much *Bodies from the Bog* held my attention. Deems trusted the stories, facts, and photos of bog bodies to capture the attention of readers.

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