



## ***In Class Exercises (ICE) - 11/8/00***

***Until recently, most historians assumed that contact between the civilizations of Asia and Europe was initiated by the journeys of Marco Polo (the Venetian traveler who lived from 1254 to 1324). Archaeologists have discovered ruins in the western parts of China. These ruins sometimes conceal the mummified remains of people (they have been dubbed the Tokerians<sup>1</sup>) who are European in appearance. Carbon-14 dating of these remains indicates that there is about 43% of the carbon-14 still present in the mummified remains. The half-life of carbon-14 is 5730 years. How old does this make the Tokerian civilization?***

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<sup>1</sup> If you are interested in learning more about the Tokerian civilization and what scientists have been able to piece together about this ancient mystery, watch “**The Riddle of the Desert Mummies,**” a documentary that will be shown on the Discovery Channel next Monday (11/13/00) at 8pm ET.