

Neanderthals

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Neanderthals Latest News

A recent study supports the view that Neanderthals were not wiped out in a dramatic extinction, but were instead genetically absorbed into the emerging human population over thousands of years.

About Neanderthals

- They were an **extinct relative of modern humans** once found **across Europe, extending into Central and Southwest Asia**.
- **Species: Homo neanderthalensis**
- The name Neanderthal (or Neandertal) derives from the **Neander Valley in Germany**, where the **fossils were first found**.
- They are the **closest extinct relatives of modern humans** (Homo sapiens).
- Scientific evidence suggests **our two species shared a common ancestor**.
- Neanderthals were **closely related to another group of extinct, little-known human relatives called the Denisovans**.

- Current evidence from both fossils and DNA suggests that **Neanderthal and modern human lineages separated** at least **500,000 years ago**.
- The **last populations** of Neanderthals are thought to have **died out roughly 40,000 years** ago, several thousand years or so after a wave of modern humans migrated deeper into Europe.
- Although they are long extinct, **their genes** are still **present in modern human DNA**.

Neanderthals Features

- Some **defining features of their skulls** include the **large middle part of the face, angled cheek bones**, and a **huge nose for humidifying and warming cold, dry air**.
- Their **bodies** were **shorter and stockier** than modern humans, another adaptation to living in cold environments.
- But their **brains were just as large as modern humans** and **often larger-proportional to their brawnier bodies**.
- Their **bones reveal** that they were extremely **muscular and strong**, but **led hard lives**, suffering frequent injuries.
- **Unlike modern humans**, Neanderthals **didn't have much of a chin**.
- Neanderthals made and **used a diverse set of sophisticated tools, controlled fire, lived in shelters, made and wore clothing**, were **skilled hunters** of large animals, **ate plant foods**, and occasionally **made symbolic or ornamental objects**.
- Around 300,000 years ago Neanderthals **developed an innovative stone technology** known as the **Levallois technique**.
 - This involved **making pre-shaped stone cores** that could be **finessed into a finished tool at a later time**.
- There is evidence that Neanderthals **deliberately buried their dead** and occasionally **even marked their graves with offerings**, such as flowers.
- **No other primates, and no earlier human species, had ever practiced this** sophisticated and symbolic behavior.

Source: **IDR**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/who-were-the-neanderthals/>

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