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| Neanderthal A. What did Neanderthals look like?Neanderthal man had a jutting nose set in a large face with massive brow ridges and no chin. From around 190,000 years ago, they lived across Europe and the southwest of Asia, from Britain in the west to Iraq in the East. B. How did they survive the Ice Age?During the Pleistocene, the polar ice caps were locked in a cycle of retreat and advance. When they retreated, temperatures climbed and deciduous forest covered Europe. When the ice caps advanced, temperatures plummeted and the landscape turned into snowy tundra. In order to survive these ice ages, Neanderthals lost their tall, strapping physique and developed a short, stocky body that was an ideal shape for conserving heat. They were also extremely muscular in order to cope with the demands of a gruelling Ice Age lifestyle. This physique developed early in childhood.C. Meat-eating hunters The Neanderthals were committed carnivores, and in order to obtain enough animal meat to survive, they needed to be skilled hunters. Neanderthals hunted bison, deer, reindeer and musk ox, to name a few.They probably trapped their prey in bogs or on deep stream banks before closing in with their spears and making a kill at close range. A high rate of head and neck trauma in Neanderthals matches the pattern seen in present-day rodeo riders suggesting that, like these sportsmen, Neanderthals were tackling big animals up close and getting thrown off.D. Care in the communitySocial relations were important to the Neanderthals, and these were maintained through language. The Neanderthal hyoid bone, which holds the voicebox in place, shows they were capable of complex speech. But their sentences were probably basicThese cave-dwellers even cared for the elderly and infirm. An elderly male Neanderthal known as 'La-Chapelle-aux-Saints 1' had lost all his molar teeth, making it impossible for him to chew his food. But the bone above his tooth cavities had partially healed, suggesting that other Neanderthals chewed his food for him before feeding it to him.E. ExtinctionBut the appearance of modern humans appeared in Europe 40,000 years ago placed Neanderthals in direct competition with our ancestors for resources. It was a competition the Neanderthals would lose. Around 28,000 years ago, the last Neanderthals died out. |
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II. Cro-MagnonThe Cro-Magnons form the earliest known [European](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) examples of [Homo sapiens sapiens](http://sapiens), the subspecies to which modern [humans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human) belong. The term falls outside the usual naming conventions for [early man](http://man) and is used in a general sense to describe the oldest modern people in Europe. The oldest H. sapiens sapiens (i.e. anatomically modern humans) first emerged around 100,000 years ago.Cro-Magnons lived from about 35,000 to 10,000 years ago The geologist [Louis Lartet](http://lartet) discovered the first five [skeletons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skeleton) in March [1868](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1868) in the Cro-Magnon rock shelter at [Les Eyzies](http://eyzies), [Dordogne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dordogne), [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France). The skeletons showed the same high forehead, upright posture and slender (gracile) skeleton as modern humans. Other specimens have since come to light in other parts of Europe and in the [Middle East](http://east). The European individuals probably arrived from a [North African](http://african) origin via [South Asia](http://asia), [Central Asia](http://asia) and the Middle East.Surviving Cro-Magnon artifacts include huts, [cave paintings](http://painting), carvings and antler-tipped spears. The remains of tools suggest that they knew how to make woven clothing. They had huts, constructed of rocks, clay, bones, branches, and animal hide/fur. These early humans used manganese and iron oxides to paint pictures and it is believed that they created the first [calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calendar) around 32,000 B.C.The flint tools found in association with the remains at Cro-Magnon have associations with the [Aurignacian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurignacian) culture that Lartet had identified a few years before he found the skeletons.

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