

Up to have limited thinking and through

[Environment](#), [Climate Change](#)



Upto 100, 000 years ago, Neanderthals and Homo sapiens have coexisted. However, around 45, 000-25, 000 years ago, the species seemed to have become extinct due to the increase in Homo sapiens and other external factors like climate change or natural selection. According to *The Valley of the Neanderthals*, written by Price Douglas, in 1886, one of the first skeletons of the Neanderthal species were found. Then, in 1913, a study conducted by Marcellin Boule was published on the same new species, but with a different skeleton in France.

From the hundreds of skeletons found throughout the ages, more light has been shed on the evolution of our ancestors. For example, scientists have discovered that Neanderthals first appeared around 250, 000 years ago in Europe, along with tools that had been revealed alongside them. According to the documentary *Becoming Human: Last Human Standing*, the tools were heavy, and generally thicker than Homo sapiens, which were lighter and more durable.

Because of this, spears made by the Neanderthals were harder and less efficient to use when pursuing, posing a higher threat to the hunter. The differences in the spears made by a Homo sapien compared to the ones of Neanderthals were that the earlier species had used bigger stones/rocks for tools in general, like Levallois pieces, which were hand axes found around Europe and Southwestern Asia. From this, one can also assume that they were hunters/carnivores, as also shown through the ridges of their teeth. According to the same documentary *The Last Human Standing*, sometimes, the bones of the deceased were found near the remains of large animals that are now extinct, like the mammoth or cave lion or reindeer, which further

proves that they ate meat. As well, the chapter, Valley of the Neanderthals, also explains that Neanderthals could have used their teeth to grasp things. The burial of sacred items with the deceased, such as flowers, food or tools may have been intentional which led scientists to believe their thinking was more advanced than Homo erectus, which were the ancestors to the species. By using tools and burying items with the dead, scientists know that the brain capacity of Neanderthals were big enough to have limited thinking and through the scratches on their teeth, the archeologists were also able to recognize that the species could be right or left handed.

Another important difference between the Neanderthals and Homo sapiens would be their obvious physical differences. Because they lived in different stronger and colder climates, Neanderthals tended to be bigger boned. The skeletons were shorter (around 5ft) according to the same article. The Neanderthals also had bowed limbs and larger joints, the cranium sat lower on the skull, the face was longer and the teeth/nose sat farther forward than any other hominin. They also had bigger brains compared to Homo sapiens.

Another explanation given by the same documentary proposed that the Neanderthals could have been super strong with high endurance, which helped with long travels. From the famous skeleton of ___little boy___, researchers were able to determine about how old he was, and how fast he might have grown up, which then implies that he had less time for learning. One of the ways that researchers had measured the remains would be through endocasts, which measure the skulls, through that, it was discovered that the front of the skull were similar to Homo sapiens. Through the study of

archeology, scientists were able to determine where exactly the ancestors of modern humans started out. The Neanderthals began and where they became extinct. The species, Homo erectus started out in Africa several hundred thousand years ago. From there, the part of the species moved out and ventured towards Europe and parts of Asia where they evolved into Homo sapiens. However, science says there might have been a mega drought or descending ice sheets around 140,000 years ago, which pushed the few Neanderthals further into Africa, in caves near the waters where their lifestyle changed dramatically.

The species had to adapt or become extinct. So as a solution, the species began shellfishing and learned to cook them. The unfamiliar terrain had now become familiar to them, with learning when the tides were low, and how to gather berries and roots.

They remained there for around 140,000 years. By this time, the resources that were made had become more advanced and decoration became popular (in caves, with jewelry, face paint). Once the climate finally began to improve, the Neanderthals moved from Africa towards Europe, where they had few left. In the beginning, there were around 4 different types of humans, compared to 1 type today. After the Neanderthals moved out of Africa, there is little evidence as to what exactly happened to them. One theory explains that they were already on the brink of extinction, with their lack of fast adaptability, like Homo sapiens, and their limited technology and high energy consumption (compared to the low energy and better tools of Homo sapiens),

the Neanderthals were already struggling. Another theory describes how modern humans took over the species.

Perhaps the most convincing idea is simply that the Homo sapiens might've coexisted with Neanderthals, where mating could have taken place. As well, the "bottleneck effect" was another concept as to how they disappeared into the gene pool. Through hundreds of years of mating, the defining characteristics of Neanderthals could have become less noticeable, and therefore it's like they had vanished.

However, for now, it's not entirely clear as to why exactly they disappeared.