

## Homo neanderthalensis

La Chapelle-aux-Saints-1 (France)

~50,000 YA, found in 1908



This fossil originally led to the false view of Neanderthals as the hunched-over dim-witted caveman . . . Later researchers depicted Neanderthal anatomy as being much more modern; in particular, their posture and gait was more or less identical to that of modern humans. The mistake interpretation of these fossils may have been the result of this individual suffering from severe arthritis.

This specimen had lost many of his teeth, with evidence of healing. All of the lower molars were absent and consequently, some researchers suggested that the 'Old Man' would have needed someone to process his food for him. Later studies have shown that this individual did have a number of incisors, canines and premolars in place and therefore would have been able to chew his own food, although perhaps with some difficulty.



## Homo heidelbergensis

Kabwe 1 or Broken Hill or Rhodesian Man (Kabwe, Rhodesia)

125,000 - 400,000 YA, found in 1921



**Cranial capacity** of the Broken Hill skull has been estimated at 1,230 cm<sup>3</sup>.<sup>[8]</sup> The skull suggests an extremely robust individual with the comparatively largest **brow-ridges** of any known hominin. It was described as having a broad face similar to that of *Homo neanderthalensis* (i.e. large nasal bones and thick protruding brow ridges). The skull has cavities in ten of the upper teeth and is considered one of the oldest known occurrences of cavities. Pitting indicates significant infection before death and implies that the cause of death may have been due to dental disease infection or possibly chronic ear infection.

## Cro-Magnon (European early Homo sapiens)

Les-Eyzies, France

30,000 - 32,000 YA, found in 1868



The term "Cro-Magnon Man" is used in a general sense to describe the oldest modern people in Europe. They are Homo sapiens with slight differences compared to other Homo sapiens outside Europe.

The remains found at Les-Eyzies are thought to represent adults who died at an advanced age, who were placed at the site, along with pieces of shell and animal teeth in what appear to have been [pendants](#) or necklaces, in an apparent intentional [burial](#). The presence of necklaces and tools suggests the concept of grave goods (burying ceremonial items with the body).

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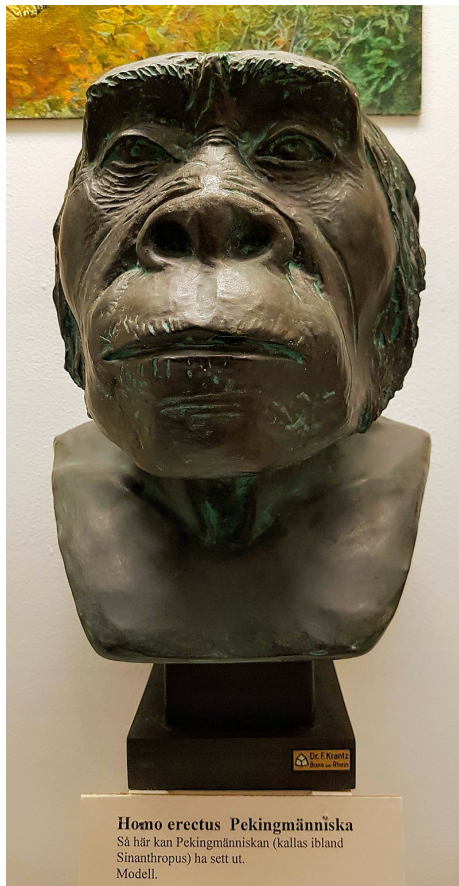


Analysis of the [skeletons](#) shows that the humans of this period led a physically difficult life. In addition to infection, several of the individuals found at the shelter had fused [vertebrae](#) in their necks, indicating traumatic injury; the adult female found at the shelter had survived for some time with a skull fracture. As these injuries would be life-threatening even today, this suggests that Cro-Magnons took care of each other's injuries.<sup>[14]</sup> In addition, Cro-Magnon 1 suffered from a genetic condition called [Neurofibromatosis type I](#), which would have led him to have large cysts or tumours on his face, evident in the depression in the [frontal bone](#) and pits of the eyebrows and [cheek bones](#).

## Homo erectus- Peking Man

Zhoukoudian, China

300,000 - 750,000 YA, found in 1930's



Eye-witness accounts state that in 1941, while Beijing was under Japanese occupation, but just before the outbreak of hostilities between Japan and the Allied Forces during the Second World War, the fossils were packed into two large crates to be shipped to the [American Museum of Natural History](#) in New York, but the fossils vanished en route.<sup>[12]</sup>

Various attempts have been made to locate the fossils, but so far without success. In 1972 a businessman offered a \$5,000 reward for the missing skulls; one woman contacted him asking for \$500,000, but she subsequently vanished.<sup>[13]</sup> In July 2005, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the Chinese government set up a committee to find the bones.

Rumours about the fate of the bones range from their having been on board a Japanese ship (the [Awa Maru](#)), or an American ship that was sunk, to being ground up for traditional Chinese medicine

## **Australopithecus afarensis**

**East Africa**

**3.9 - 2.9 MYA**



There is much debate regarding bipedality of these creatures (ability to walk on two legs). Many incomplete skeletons have been found, including “Lucy”.

All fossils of this species have been found only in East Africa. These creatures were relatively small compared to modern humans; maximum weight was approximately 75 lbs.



**Australopithecus boisei- Nutcracker Man (or Paranthropus boise)**

**Tanzania**

**1.75 MYA**



Discovered by Mary Leakey in 1959. She also nicknamed this fossil "Dear Boy" because it is believed to be the skull of an adolescent male.

## Australopithecus aethiopicus (or Paranthropus aethiopicus)

Kenya

2.5 MYA



Discovered in 1985 by Alan Walker in West [Turkana, Kenya](#), [KNM WT 17000](#) (known as the "Black Skull" due to the dark coloration of the bone, caused by high levels of [manganese](#)).

The shape of the skull indicates this species had large molar teeth and powerful jaw muscles for chewing very tough food.