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## ***Neanderthals and Homo sapiens: Kissing Cousins or Distant Relatives?***

### ***Student Handout 1.1—Similarities and Differences***

Similarities between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* up to about 30,000 years ago:

- Both were hunter-gatherers.
- Both lived in small bands.
- Both controlled fire.
- Both produced the same style and range of tools using the same technology: striking flakes off a core of rock and then shaping the flakes into various scraping, cutting, and chopping tools; both set chipped stone into hafts.
- For neither is there evidence for storage of food or raw materials.
- Brain size of both is in same general range.
- Casts of brains show evidence suggesting that they were both right-handed.
- Casts of brains suggest that the two main brain areas involved with language were as well developed in both as they are in living *Homo sapiens*
- The one undamaged Neanderthal hyoid bone found, a bone associated with pronouncing words clearly, looks like that of *Homo sapiens*.
- Both practiced human burial showing evidence of a deliberate arrangement of bodies and grave-goods.
- For both there is evidence that ill or injured individuals were cared for by the group.

Differences between *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthals up to about 30,000 years ago:

- Genetic study shows that Neanderthal and *Homo sapiens* DNA differ significantly.
- Neanderthals had larger brain capacity (1245-1740 cc) than *Homo sapiens* (1220-1600 cc).
- Neanderthals' larynx (which contains the vocal chords) was higher up in the throat, leaving less of the airspace that helps in pronouncing words.
- Neanderthals had an average height of 5'4" compared to 5'8" for fossil *Homo sapiens*.
- Neanderthal bodies were more cold-adapted with large noses and sturdy, stocky builds, and heavy bones. Those living in warmer conditions in Western Asia were lighter in build.
- The Anatomy of Neanderthals' hand suggests they had a stronger but possibly less precise grip than *Homo sapiens*.
- Between about 200,000 and 30,000 years ago, *Homo sapiens* spread from Africa to Asia, Australia, Europe, and perhaps America, while no Neanderthal remains have been found outside of Europe and Western Asia.

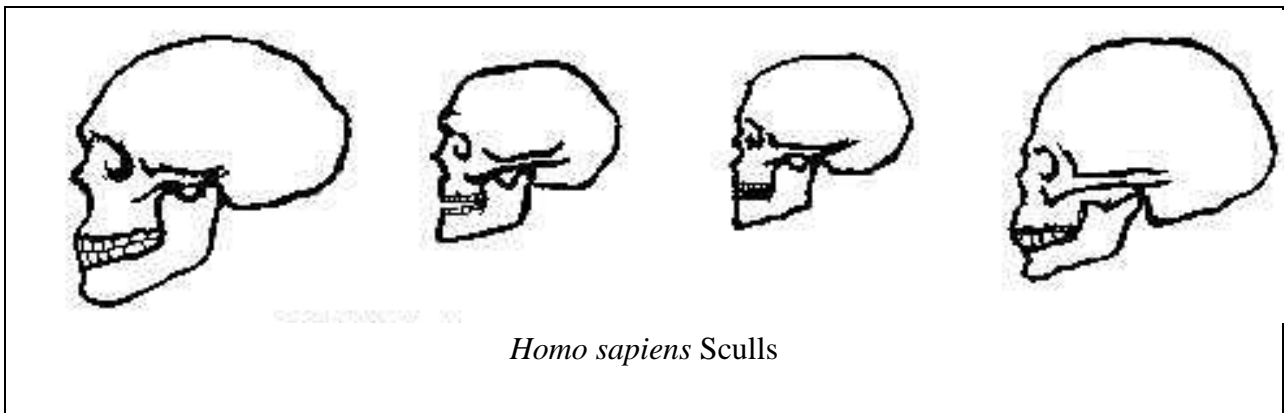
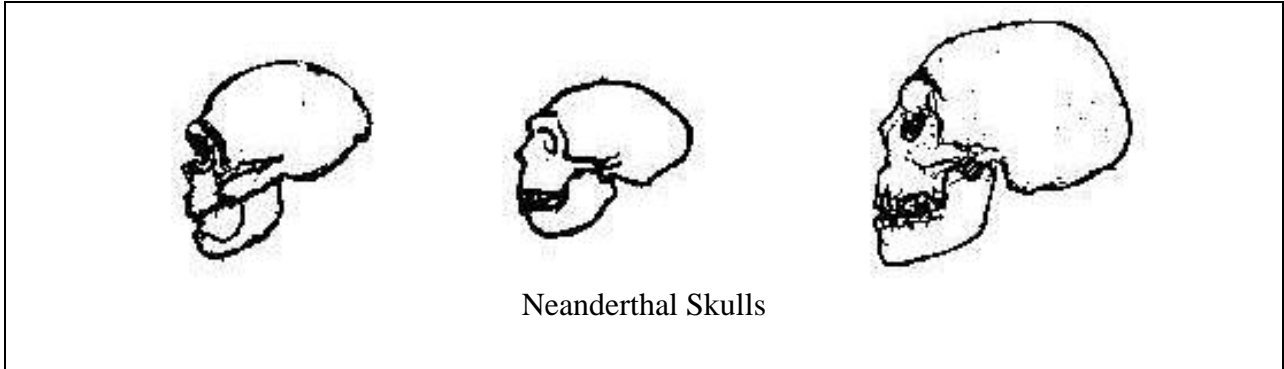
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- Neanderthals used raw materials from no more than about 30 miles away; *Homo sapiens*, from hundreds of miles away.
- Neanderthals continued to produce the same kinds of tools the same way during their entire existence, though evidence from about 35,000 years ago at some sites suggests that they made tools like those of nearby *Homo sapiens*. Also, *Homo sapiens* began to use radically new raw materials and technologies from about 40,000 years ago, and did so increasingly fast.
- Neanderthals tended to occupy their living sites, often caves, year-round, and had to range far daily to find and carry back food to home base. *Homo sapiens*' sites were quite often in the open, and the species moved seasonally or occasionally to be near resources, which overall meant less walking and carrying.
- Neanderthal life expectancy was less than 40 years; *Homo sapiens*' life expectancy was about 50.
- Neanderthal populations numbered fewer than sapiens under the same conditions. Their more robust bodies and their need to walk and carry more required more calories. Therefore, even with similar resources and methods of resource use, a given environment could support fewer Neanderthals.

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## Lesson 1

### *Student Handout 1.2—Similarities and Differences: Skulls*



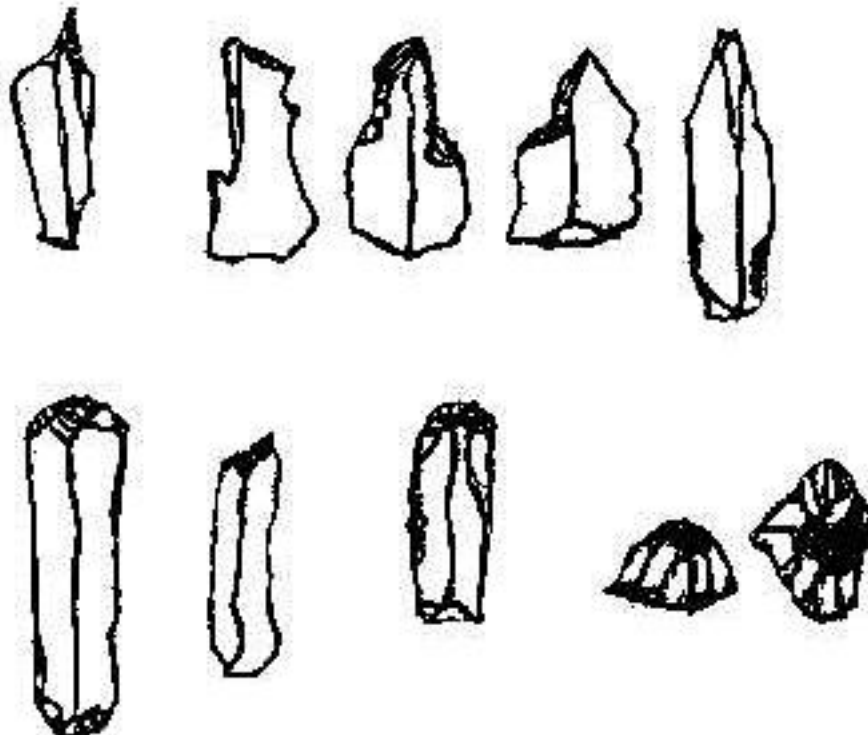
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## Lesson 1

### *Student Handout 1.3—Similarities and Differences: Tools*



Sample of Neanderthal Tools



Sample of *Homo sapiens* Tools Made before 30,000 Years Ago

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# UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

## Simplified Version

This simplified version of the 30 Articles of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) has been created especially for young people.

- 1. We Are All Born Free & Equal.** We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way.
- 2. Don't Discriminate.** These rights belong to everybody, whatever our differences.
- 3. The Right to Life.** We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.
- 4. No Slavery.** Nobody has any right to make us a **slave**. We cannot make anyone our slave.
- 5. No Torture.** Nobody has any right to hurt us or to torture us.
- 6. You Have Rights No Matter Where You Go.** I am a person just like you!
- 7. We're All Equal Before the Law.** The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly.
- 8. Your Human Rights Are Protected by Law.** We can all ask for the law to help us when we are not treated fairly.
- 9. No Unfair Detainment.** Nobody has the right to put us in prison without good reason and keep us there, or to send us away from our country.
- 10. The Right to Trial.** If we are put on trial this should be in public. The people who try us should not let anyone tell them what to do.
- 11. We're Always Innocent Till Proven Guilty.** Nobody should be blamed for doing something until it is proven. When people say we did a bad thing we have the right to show it is not true.
- 12. The Right to Privacy.** Nobody should try to harm our good name. Nobody has the right to come into our home, open our letters, or bother us or our family without a good reason.
- 13. Freedom to Move.** We all have the right to go where we want in our own country and to travel as we wish.
- 14. The Right to Seek a Safe Place to Live.** If we are frightened of being badly treated in our own country, we all have the right to run away to another country to be safe.
- 15. Right to a Nationality.** We all have the right to belong to a country

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**16. Marriage and Family.** Every grown-up has the right to marry and have a family if they want to. Men and women have the same rights when they are married, and when they are separated.

**17. The Right to Your Own Things.** Everyone has the right to own things or share them. Nobody should take our things from us without a good reason.

**18. Freedom of Thought.** We all have the right to believe in what we want to believe, to have a religion, or to change it if we want.

**19. Freedom of Expression.** We all have the right to make up our own minds, to think what we like, to say what we think, and to share our ideas with other people.

**20. The Right to Public Assembly.** We all have the right to meet our friends and to work together in peace to defend our rights. Nobody can make us join a group if we don't want to.

**21. The Right to Democracy.** We all have the right to take part in the government of our country. Every grown-up should be allowed to choose their own leaders.

**22. Social Security.** We all have the right to affordable housing, medicine, education, and childcare, enough money to live on and medical help if we are ill or old.

**23. Workers' Rights.** Every grown-up has the right to do a job, to a fair wage for their work, and to join a trade union.

**24. The Right to Play.** We all have the right to rest from work and to relax.

**25. Food and Shelter for All.** We all have the right to a good life. Mothers and children, people who are old, unemployed or disabled, and all people have the right to be cared for.

**26. The Right to Education.** Education is a right. Primary school should be free. We should learn about the United Nations and how to get on with others. Our parents can choose what we learn.

**27. Copyright.** Copyright is a special law that protects one's own artistic creations and writings; others cannot make copies without permission. We all have the right to our own way of life and to enjoy the good things that art, science and learning bring.

**28. A Fair and Free World.** There must be proper order so we can all enjoy rights and freedoms in our own country and all over the world.

**29. Responsibility.** We have a duty to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms.

**30. No One Can Take Away Your Human Rights.**

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### Discussion Questions:

1. What would you say were the three most important similarities and the three most important differences between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*? Explain your answer, including how you decided what was “important”.
2. Do you think Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* were more different or more similar? Explain your answer.
3. What important questions about Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* does the information above leave unanswered? What additional kinds of evidence might help answer these questions?
4. Compare what different students considered “important” in establishing similarities and differences between the two species? What measures did students use to establish importance? How would you account for the differences in what people considered important?
5. The U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ First Article reads: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience, and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” How would you argue in favor of the hypothesis that both Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* were “endowed with reason and conscience”? On what basis would you argue against it? What questions would you like to have answered before you would vote on giving either Neanderthals or *Homo sapiens* before 30,000 years ago “equal dignity and rights” with yourself?
6. Would you agree with the statement that “a human is anyone other humans accept as human?” Why or why not?
7. Besides the question of “how human were they,” what other question or questions about Neanderthals would you consider historically important? Why?

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**Assignment**

Assume that a small population of Neanderthals has just been discovered living in a remote area. At a meeting of the United Nations, delegates are arguing the case for including them under the protection of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You are a lawyer charged with arguing the case. It is up to you, based on the information available to you, to argue in favor (taking into account all the possible objections) or against (taking into account all the possible points in favor) the case. Write out your argument, based on as much as possible of the information available to you.

**Rubric**

Must be 1 page double spaced, typed, size 12 Calibri or Times New Roman font\_\_\_\_/4

Four points supporting your argument\_\_\_\_/5

Four points supporting your opponent's argument\_\_\_\_/5

Correct Grammar/ paragraph/ thesis structure/ citing\_\_\_\_/6

\_\_\_\_\_/20 pts total

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ If turned in late half of your total score will be deducted.