

Self-study Problems #9: Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*

1. Fossils from Sima de los Huesos indicate that Neanderthals evolved from
2. In what region(s) did Neanderthals live?
3. Describe some body (post-cranial) features that made Neanderthals different from other members of *Homo*.
4. How did the size of Neanderthal brains compare to those of modern *Homo sapiens*, and what can we conclude from this?
5. Explain why some Neanderthal facial characteristics are thought to have evolved.
6. What has been suggested about Neanderthal hunting and other behavior based on the health conditions of many Neanderthal fossils?
7. What evidence suggests that Neanderthals may have had human-like ideas about death or the supernatural?
8. What happened among hominins in Africa as Neanderthals were evolving?
9. About when and where did *Homo sapiens* first appear?

10. What physical features make *Homo sapiens* different from earlier hominins?

11. Describe the “human revolution” theory and what it is supposed to explain.

12. What other hominins might *Homo sapiens* have encountered, where, and what happened?

13. Name and describe the new mode of stone tools that cognitively modern *Homo sapiens* made.

14. What was new about the behavior of cognitively modern *Homo sapiens* in the Upper Paleolithic?

15. Compare the rate of change of tool styles among different species of the genus *Homo*. What does this suggest about their cognitive abilities?

16. How might the lifespan of cognitively modern *Homo sapiens* have affected their cultural behavior?

17. What genetic evidence supports the claim that all humans descended from a small group in Africa?