

We improved our analysis to better identify Neanderthal ancestry in non-European populations, and your results may have changed. [Learn more](#)

← Ancestry

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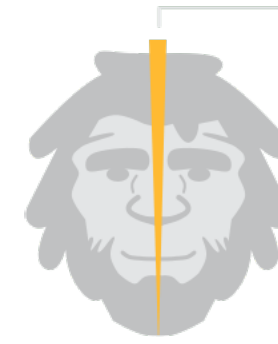
Hey John!

You have more Neanderthal DNA than 23% of other customers.

Neanderthals were prehistoric humans who interbred with modern humans before disappearing around 40,000 years ago.

Summary Scientific Details

What does this mean?



You have **<2% Neanderthal DNA**

You inherited a small amount of DNA from your Neanderthal ancestors. Out of the 2,872 variants we tested, we found **256 variants** in your DNA that trace back to the Neanderthals.

All together, your Neanderthal ancestry accounts for less than **~2 percent of your DNA**.

You have Neanderthal DNA that may influence your traits

This report highlights associations between your Neanderthal variants and your traits, but it does not explore how other factors may be involved – such as your many other DNA variants, your environment, or your lifestyle.

You have 1 variant associated with **being less likely to have a fear of heights.**

[See all possible traits](#)



Help us improve this report! [Answer a few quick questions](#)

Neanderthals, Decoded

In 2010, scientists sequenced the Neanderthal genome for the first time, leading to the discovery that most people can trace up to 2% of their DNA to the Neanderthals, who lived throughout western Eurasia – from Wales to southern Siberia near the Altai mountains.



Neanderthal Facts



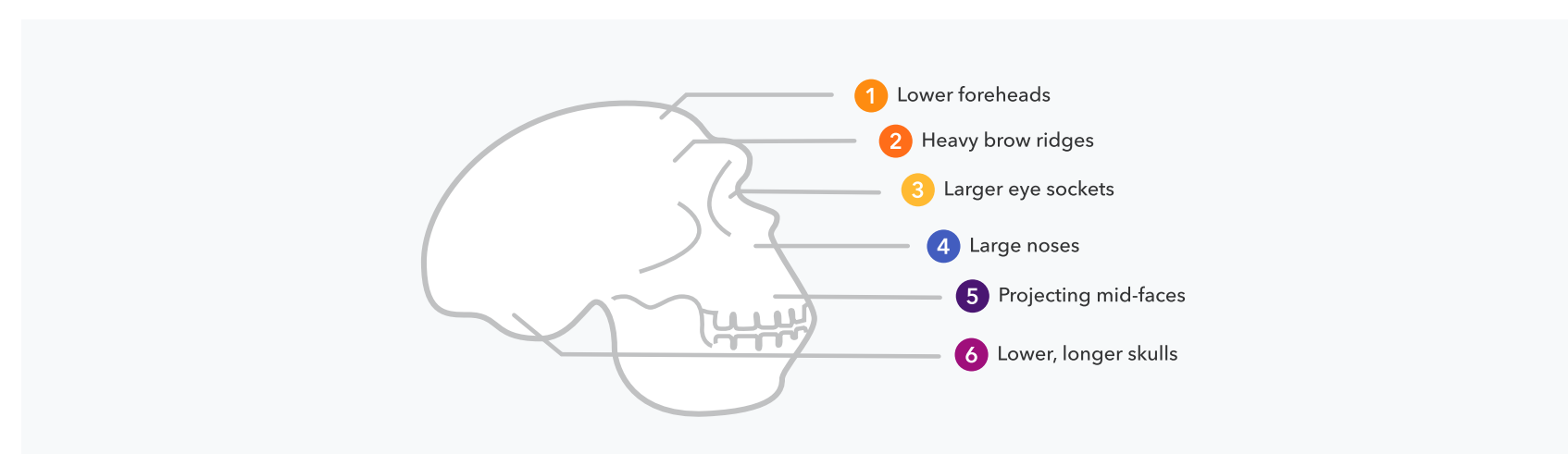
What does Neanderthal mean?



The word “Neanderthal” is a nod to a 17th-century German theologian named Joachim Neander and the secluded valley (Thal) he loved to visit. Nearly 200 years after Neander's death, peculiar bones were found in the valley – initially believed to belong to a human with bone deformities (it was, in fact, a Neanderthal). It wasn't until 1886, when two nearly complete Neanderthal skeletons were found in Belgium, that the scientific community recognized the remains for what they were – a unique flavor of human.



What did Neanderthals look like?

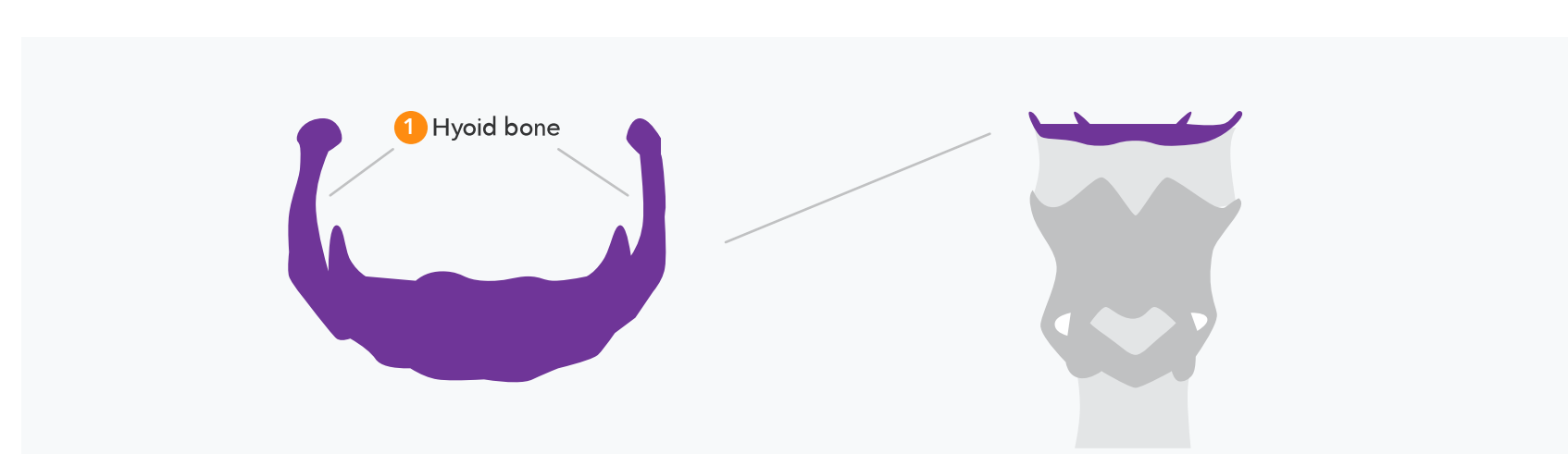


Neanderthals were similar to modern humans in many ways, but their skeletal remains reveal a handful of differences, particularly in the face and head. Where modern humans have a relatively flat face and round skull, Neanderthals had a sloping forehead, elongated skull, heavy brow ridge, projecting midface, and almost no chin. Neanderthals also had a more robust body with a “barrel-shaped” chest and thicker bones.

Fun fact: the tallest Neanderthal ever found was around 5'10" – a whopping five inches taller than the average Neanderthal male.



Could Neanderthals talk?



In 1983, a Neanderthal skeleton was found in Israel, and one bone in particular drew the attention of archaeologists and linguists around the world: the delicate, U-shaped hyoid. In humans, the hyoid bone allows for a wide range of sounds required for speech, and the Neanderthal hyoid bone looked human, suggesting Neanderthals were able to talk. Neanderthals also had a nearly-human version of FOXP2, a gene known to be critically important for normal speech and language. The jury's still out on whether Neanderthals could talk, but the evidence speaks volumes.



Were Neanderthals intelligent?



While they may have looked a little different, Neanderthals were probably a lot like us. They tended to have slightly larger brains than modern humans, and shared many of our capabilities. They made fire. They used tools and they could probably speak. There's also evidence that they created jewelry and art. For example, the earliest European art – red-pigment paintings that decorate the walls of caves throughout the continent's southwest – may have been created by Neanderthals 20,000 years before modern humans arrived in Europe.



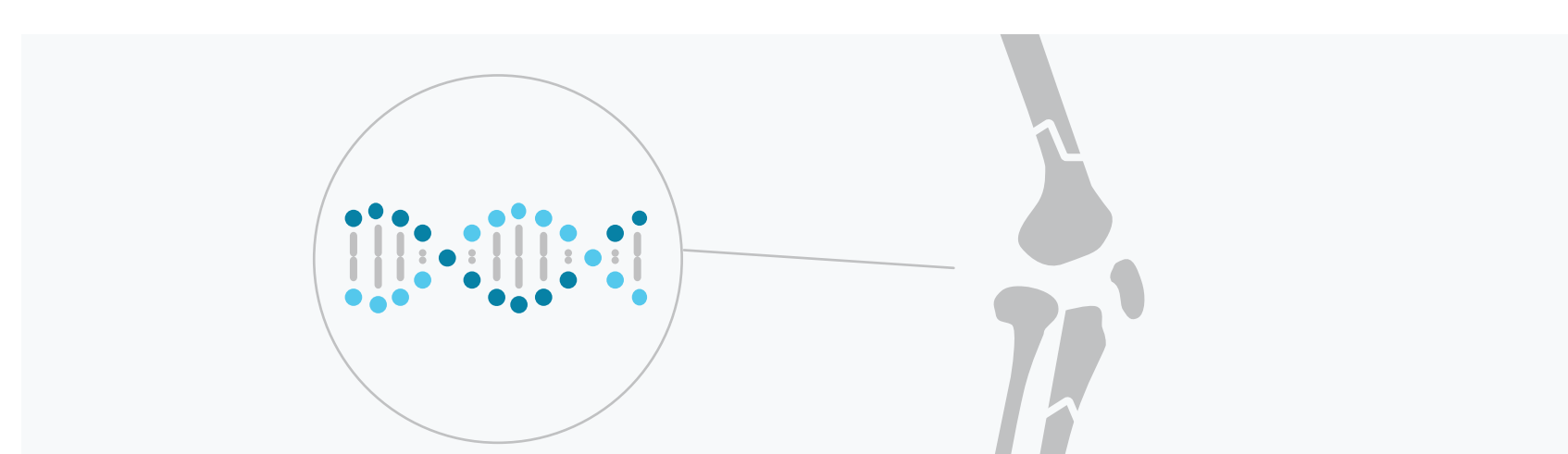
Who has Neanderthal ancestry today?



European, Asian, and indigenous American populations today have between 1-2 percent Neanderthal DNA, but Sub-Saharan African populations have significantly less. While Neanderthal remains have been found close to Africa there is no evidence that Neanderthals ever called the continent home.



What about Denisovans?



We've known about Neanderthals for over a century. But did you know there was at least one other population of archaic humans who interbred with our ancestors? Meet the Denisovans. Bone fragments unearthed in Siberia and Tibet are the only remains ever found belonging to the Denisovans. After their genome was sequenced in 2015, scientists learned that Denisovan ancestry is found in modern humans, reaching 5 percent in some Oceanian populations. However, Denisovan ancestry remains very low in most other groups – typically far less than 0.1 percent. The studies of Denisovan DNA also revealed they were more closely related to Neanderthals than to modern humans.

- 1 ●
- 2 ●

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