

# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEANDERTHALS

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Fernando Diez Martín

Discover the history of the Neanderthals, the first known humans and the bold lineage that survived millennia in glacier-covered Europe. Take a fun and intellectual journey through time, from this species' appearance during the Ice Age to their dramatic end when *Homo sapiens* arrived in Africa

## Synopsis

*Brief History of the Neanderthals* presents the *Homo neanderthalensis* species, first discovered in fossil form in the middle of the 19th century.

This book takes an interesting and intellectual look at the information that we have on the Neanderthals. To do so, it starts by reviewing the history of this species' discovery in the 19th century and the great surprise that this caused among scholars of the period.

Then the book takes a closer look at the Neanderthal's origins via *Homo heidelbergensis* during the European Ice Age, its physical characteristics and life cycles, its way of life and subsistence, its social relations, its cognitive abilities (language, art), and the arrival of *homo sapiens* in its world, which contributed to the Neanderthal's demise.

## Biography

**Fernando Diez Martín** (Tudela de Duero, Spain) has a PhD in prehistory from the University of Valladolid in Spain (1999). He is a professor of prehistory at the Universidad de Valladolid, director of the Spanish paleontological project in Peninj (Lake Natron, Tanzania), and member of the International TOPPP team (The Olduvai Palaeoanthropological and Palaeoecological Project, headed by Profesor Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo), which works on the archeological sites at Bed I and Bed II of the Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania). He is the author of *Brief History of Homo Sapiens*.



## Did you know that...

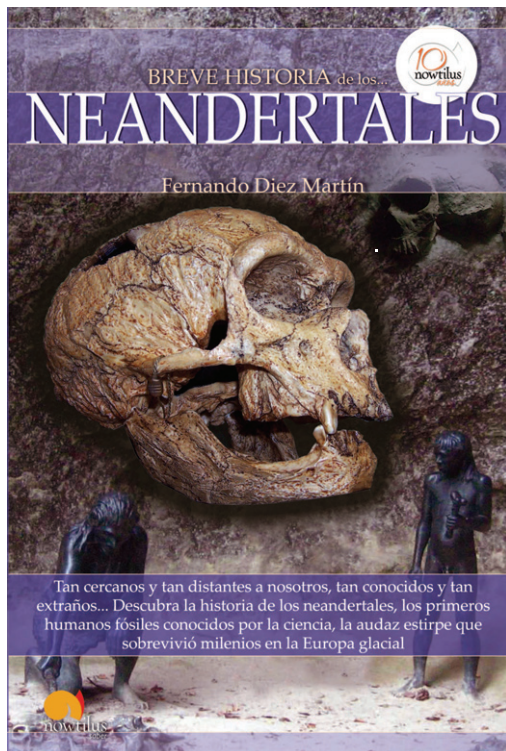
...the first Neanderthals were discovered before the publication of Darwin's theory on evolution?

...the first Neanderthal discovered in Germany in the middle of the 19th century was originally interpreted ...to be a physically and mentally ill person?

...the Neanderthal is a distinctly European species?

...presently a Neanderthal genome is being reconstructed?

...the Neanderthals had a brain with more volume than ours and that they possessed a great amount of physical strength?



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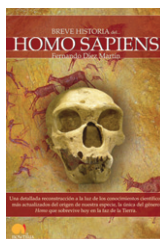
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