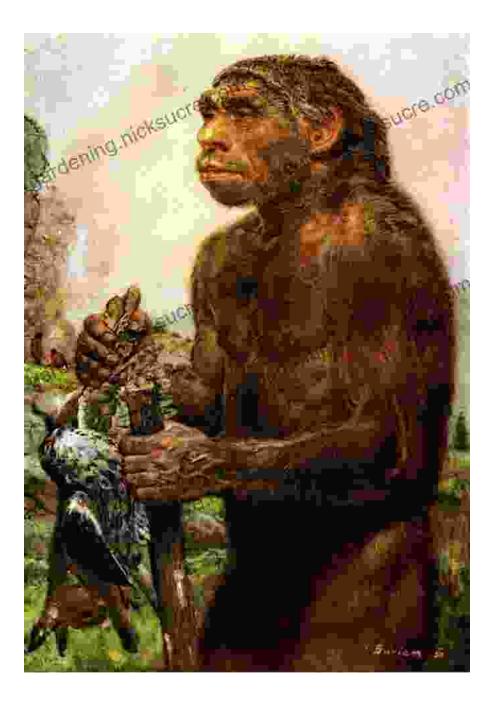
# The Death of Neanderthal: A Historical Perspective



The Neanderthals, a close relative of modern humans, disappeared from the fossil record around 40,000 years ago. The reasons for their extinction

are still debated, but some of the most likely causes include climate change, competition with modern humans, and interbreeding.

THE DEATH OF	The Death of	a Neanderthal (A History Lesson)	
A NEANDERTHAL (A HISTORY LESSON)	by Michael Alvear		
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#### **History of the Neanderthals**

The Neanderthals evolved in Europe and western Asia around 400,000 years ago. They were a robust and muscular people, with a distinctive brow ridge and a large nose. Neanderthals were skilled hunters and gatherers, and they lived in small bands of up to 50 people.

The Neanderthals coexisted with modern humans for thousands of years. However, around 40,000 years ago, the Neanderthals disappeared from the fossil record. The reasons for their extinction are still debated, but some of the most likely causes include:

 Climate change: The climate during the last ice age was harsh and unpredictable. The Neanderthals may have been unable to adapt to these changes, and they may have died out as a result.

- Competition with modern humans: Modern humans are a more technologically advanced species than the Neanderthals. They may have been able to outcompete the Neanderthals for food and resources, leading to their extinction.
- Interbreeding: Some scientists believe that the Neanderthals may have interbred with modern humans. This may have led to the extinction of the Neanderthals, as their genes were absorbed into the modern human population.

### The Extinction of the Neanderthals

The extinction of the Neanderthals is one of the most debated topics in anthropology. There is no definitive answer to why they died out, but the most likely causes include climate change, competition with modern humans, and interbreeding.

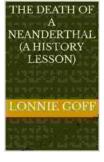
The Neanderthals were a resilient species, and they survived for thousands of years in a harsh and changing environment. However, they were unable to withstand the challenges of the last ice age. The climate became too cold and unpredictable, and the Neanderthals were unable to adapt. They may also have been outcompeted by modern humans, who were more technologically advanced and better able to exploit the resources of their environment.

#### **Ongoing Research into the Extinction of the Neanderthals**

The extinction of the Neanderthals is still a mystery. Scientists are continuing to research the causes of their demise, and they are making new discoveries all the time. Recent research has shown that the Neanderthals may have interbred with modern humans, and this may have played a role in their extinction.

The extinction of the Neanderthals is a reminder of the fragility of life. Even the most resilient species can be wiped out by a changing environment or by competition from a more advanced species. The Neanderthals are a part of our human history, and their extinction is a reminder of the importance of protecting our planet and our species.

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