**A Mystery of History: The Neanderthals**

**Possibility Words**

* It is possible/likely/probable/highly probable that…



* It is conceivable that…
* One theory is that…
* Scientists speculate that…
* Possibly… / Probably… / Maybe…
* The Neanderthals might have been more/less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than Homo sapiens…
* The Neanderthals may have…
* Some evidence suggests that…
* The evidence indicates that…
* Scientists argue that…
* Some of the evidence is inconclusive, because…
* The Neanderthals seem to have been able to … but…
* One interpretation of the evidence is that…
* I believe that…
* I would tend to conclude that…
* It is difficult to be certain, but the evidence suggests that…

**Arguments that have been put forward:**

* The Neanderthals’ head shape could have posed birthing problems.
* The lower and relatively narrow pelvis of Neanderthal women might have led to problems during birth.
* The Homo sapiens might have been quicker and more agile. This would have given them advantages as hunters.
* The Homo sapiens might have been able to throw their lighter spears from a distance, whereas the Neanderthals may have needed to be closer to their prey.
* Neanderthal children might have needed more sustenance in early life, which might have reduced the number of births that occurred.
* The high level of cold adaptation of the Neanderthals might have been a disadvantage once the Ice Ages were over.
* It seems likely that Neanderthals would have been able to talk, though they would probably have sounded quite different from us.

