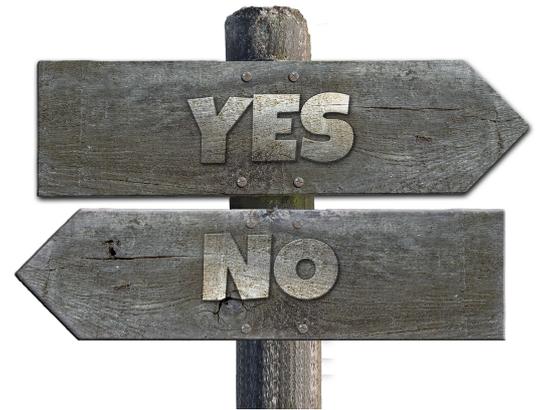


A Mystery of History: The Neanderthals

Possibility Words

- It is possible/likely/probable/highly probable that...
- It is **conceivable** that...
- One theory is that...
- Scientists speculate/hypothesise 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...



These two options are often far too blunt and simplistic for the complexities of history.

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 an advantage 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 took place.
- 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.



One of my favourite pictures from the Neanderthal Museum in Germany

SWOT: The Beginning of Farming

Farming began between ten and twelve thousand years ago. We take it for granted now, but this way of life forms only a miniscule proportion of human life on earth. How has it enriched our lives? Conversely, to what problems does it lead?

S

Strengths

W

Weaknesses



O

Opportunities

T

Threats