



Neanderthal Fossils Hint at Advanced Abstract Thinking

Description

A new study of fossils found in a cave in Spain shows that Neanderthals could think in a special way. This thinking happened before they met *Homo sapiens*.

Researchers found 15 small marine fossils in the Prado Vargas Cave in [Burgos](#). Most of these fossils did not have much use for food or tools.

This means Neanderthals might have collected these fossils for fun or to keep as special items. This ability to collect shows that they could think about things beyond what they needed right away, a sign of abstract thought.

The researchers say that these fossils could have been used for many reasons. They might have been pretty, used for trading, or even meant for gifts. They could have also been toys for children, as there is proof that kids lived in the cave.

It is important to know that no early humans were in this area at the same time. This shows that Neanderthals collected items all by themselves.

The study was published in [Quaternary](#).

Vocabulary List:

1. **Neanderthals** /ni'ændər,θɔlz/ (noun): A group of extinct hominids that lived in Europe and parts of Asia.
2. **Fossils** /'fɒs.əlz/ (noun): Remains or impressions of prehistoric organisms preserved in rock.
3. **Abstract** /'æbstrækt/ (adjective): Existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence.
4. **Researchers** /rɪ'sɜːr.tʃərz/ (noun): People who carry out academic or scientific investigations.
5. **Special** /'speʃ.əl/ (adjective): Better greater or otherwise different from what is usual.
6. **Collected** /kə'lek.tɪd/ (verb): Gathered or amassed items typically for a specific purpose.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



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1. Where were the fossils found that showed Neanderthals could think in a special way?
Option: A) Burgos
Option: B) Madrid
Option: C) Seville
Option: D) Valencia

 2. How many small marine fossils were found in the Prado Vargas Cave?
Option: A) 5
Option: B) 10
Option: C) 15
Option: D) 20

 3. What is suggested by the ability of Neanderthals to collect marine fossils according to the researchers?
Option: A) They were preparing tools
Option: B) They collected for food
Option: C) They engaged in abstract thought
Option: D) They were learning new skills

 4. What could the marine fossils collected by Neanderthals have been used for, according to the researchers?
Option: A) Trading
Option: B) Eating
Option: C) Carpentry
Option: D) Displaying

 5. Were there early humans present in the area where Neanderthals collected the marine fossils at the same time?
Option: A) Yes
Option: B) No

 6. In which journal was the study on Neanderthal fossils published?
Option: A) Nature
Option: B) Quaternary
Option: C) Science
Option: D) Archaeology

True-False



7. Neanderthals could think in a special way before meeting Homo sapiens.
8. The marine fossils found were mainly useful for food purposes.
9. Researchers suggested that Neanderthals might have collected the fossils for fun or as special items.
10. The marine fossils could have been used as toys for children in the cave.
11. The absence of early humans in the area indicates Neanderthals collected items independently.
12. The study was published in the journal Nature.

Gap-Fill

13. The researchers found 15 small marine fossils in the Prado Vargas Cave in _____.
14. The ability of Neanderthals to collect marine fossils indicates their capacity for _____
thought.
15. The marine fossils could have been used for many reasons, including trading, displaying, or even as gifts
for _____.
16. No early humans were present in the same area at the time, showing that Neanderthals collected items
_____.
17. The study on Neanderthal fossils was published in the journal _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A) Burgos 2. C) 15 3. C) They engaged in abstract thought 4. A) Trading 5. B) No
6. B) Quaternary

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. Spain 14. abstract 15. others 16. independently 17. Quaternary

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which scientific theory explains the gradual changes in organisms over time?
Option: Natural Selection
Option: Complexity Theory
Option: Specialization
Option: Mass Interaction
2. Who are individuals seeking medical treatment from healthcare providers known as?
Option: Normal People
Option: Specialized Clients
Option: Test Subjects
Option: Patients
3. What term is used to describe a collection of stars planets and other celestial bodies?
Option: Meteor
Option: Constellation
Option: Galaxy
Option: Nebula
4. Which ancient human species is known to have coexisted with early modern humans?
Option: Researchers
Option: Neanderthals
Option: Specialists
Option: Fossils
5. What activity involves acquiring knowledge or understanding through research and analysis?
Option: Discover
Option: Change
Option: Improve
Option: Study
6. What term refers to the highest point or maximum value of something?
Option: Peak
Option: Bright
Option: Normal
Option: Count
7. What process involves investigating a subject to establish facts and reach new conclusions?
Option: Collected
Option: Formation
Option: Mass



Option: Research

8. What term describes ideas and concepts rather than specific objects or events?

Option: Abstract

Option: Special

Option: Observe

Option: Test

9. What event involves a large number of meteors entering Earth's atmosphere at the same time?

Option: Mass Interaction

Option: Meteor Shower

Option: Interstellar Formation

Option: Galactic Interaction

10. What term describes being highly skilled or trained in a specific field?

Option: Discovery

Option: Specialized

Option: Intriguing

Option: Complexity

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is the process through which organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring.

12. Organisms undergo _____ over time in response to environmental factors.

13. Scientists conduct experiments to _____ hypotheses and theories.

14. It is vital to accurately _____ the number of subjects in a research study.

15. Studying the behavior of _____ cells is crucial for understanding diseases.

16. Medical research aims to continuously _____ treatments and patient outcomes.

17. Astronomers use telescopes to _____ new planets and celestial bodies.

18. The _____ of stars involves complex processes of fusion and gravitational collapse.

19. The _____ of different species in an ecosystem can lead to ecological changes.



20. A _____ comet is visible to the naked eye even in daylight.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Understanding the intricate workings of the human brain is a task for scientists.
22. To gain expertise in a subject one must dedicate time and effort to and practice.
23. The _____ of the Earth determines its gravitational pull on objects near its surface.
24. Archaeologists hope to _____ ancient ruins that could provide insights into past civilizations.
25. A star shines luminously in the night sky visible even from great distances.
26. The natural _____ of mountains involves tectonic processes and erosion over millions of years.
27. The exhibit displayed rare artifacts and historical documents from around the world.
28. After the field trip the students _____ samples of rocks and plants for further analysis.
29. Scientific _____ involves formulating hypotheses conducting experiments and analyzing data.
30. In a healthy ecosystem species _____ with each other to maintain a balanced environment.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Natural Selection 2. Patients 3. Galaxy 4. Neanderthals 5. Study 6. Peak 7. Research 8. Abstract 9. Meteor Shower 10. Specialized

Gap-Fill: 11. Natural Selection 12. Change 13. Test 14. Count 15. Normal 16. Improve 17. Discover 18. Formation 19. Interaction 20. Bright

Matching sentence: 1. Complex 2. Study 3. Mass 4. Discover 5. Bright 6. Formation 7. Special 8. Collected 9. Study 10. Interact

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL1

Date Created

2024/12/08

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