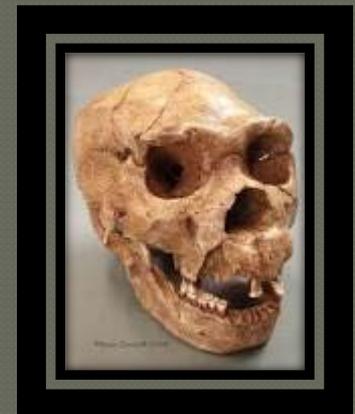


# HOMO HEIDELBERGENSIS

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- ◉ Homo heidelbergensis
- ◉ Homo heidelbergensis es una especie extinta del género Homo, que surgió hace más de 600 000 años y perduró al menos hasta hace 250 000 años. Clasificación superior: Homo  
Categoría: Especie



# THE EVOLUTION

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- An incomplete skull, without facial bones, found in 1994 in Ceprano (Italy ) is the only evidence of Homo antecessor elsewhere in Europe. The trace of this species is lost in the mists of time and we have no direct evidence for the presence of hominids in Europe until a much later period, made between 400 000 and 500 000 years , and in the middle Pleistocene.

What happened to Homo antecessor in Europe? Evolved species on our continent to give a distinct species ? Are their populations disappeared with the arrival of new immigrants ? Are mixed with the latter? All these questions remain to be ascertained by science. For now we have to settle for knowing that makes half a million years Europe was populated by a different , perhaps more numerous species , who came to colonize northern latitudes and possessed technical capabilities : their tools were more sophisticated and they controlled the use of fire .

Newcomers are included in the species Homo heidelbergensis , appointed in 1908 following the discovery of the jaw of Mauer in the German town of Heidelberg. Members of this species evolved in Europe in terms of relative isolation due to glaciation that swept the northern hemisphere during the Middle Pleistocene .

The Iberian Peninsula was one of the places in Europe where the hominids found shelter during the coldest times of the Middle Pleistocene .



# FEATURES

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- The tools of Homo heidelbergensis were made according to well established guidelines to reach standardized forms such as bifaces or hand axes, cleavers and the peaks. This technology has the generic name technical 2 mode (or just mode 2), and is characterized by the careful selection of raw materials, pre-determination of objects and incorporation of abstract concepts such as symmetry. Originally, this technology was called Acheulean, eponymous French town of Saint Acheul, where it was first found.

# FINDINGS

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In the Sierra de Atapuerca were found numerous tools made under this technology in the field that holds the complex cavities formed by the Covacha of Zarpazos , Gallery and North Boca de Tres Simas , very close to the cave of Gran Dolina .

Excavations at the site of the Sima de los Huesos have provided a record of over 4,000 human remains of *Homo heidelbergensis* . This exceptional collection represents over 90 percent of the fossils of this species and allowed to find out much of what we now know about human evolution in Europe during the Middle Pleistocene .

Access to the Pit of Bones is very complicated and the excavation is performed under conditions of great difficulty .

There have been numerous datings reservoir through uranium isotopes . Thanks to this research we now know that hominids lived Sima de los Huesos in the Sierra de Atapuerca approximately 400 000 years ago.

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- The collection of human fossils from the Sima de los Huesos includes over 500 teeth and several dozen more or less complete remains of the mandible and maxilla . This material is analyzed every year in great detail for the identification of individuals who are gradually exhuming the reservoir. Until the year 2003 has identified a minimum of 28 individuals : a boy of about 3 or 4 years , fourteen teenagers between 11 and 18 years and 19 adults aged thirteen and not more 40 years. This same material allows an estimate of the sex of some individuals, with all the difficulties involved in a nearly species unknown to science. For now, it can be concluded that both sexes are represented in a similar proportion .

All indications point to the same conclusion: the hominids found in the Sima de los Huesos were deposited in the secret place of the Cueva Mayor by other members of their species. The intent of that behavior eludes us , although the presence next to the bodies a unique tool red quartzite , fine set without traces of usage leads us to propose very bold hypothesis on a possible ritual at that time so remote in the history of mankind

# PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL FEATURES

**Height:** a large majority of individuals would measure between 160 and 180 centimeters , with an average of slightly above average males from females , as is currently the case in our species .

**Sexual dimorphism :** differences in height and weight between males and females would be similar to those of our species.

**Body proportions :** similar to Homo sapiens , but with wider trunk .

**Body weight :** about 30 percent heavier than our species due to increased skeletal muscle mass and its greatest width and trunk .

Average of about 100-150 cubic centimeters lower than in Homo sapiens : cranial capacity . Lateralized brains like ours, with right and left handed individuals.

**Degree of encephalization :** smaller than that of our species : relatively smaller brains relative to body weight. Gestation: nine months.

**Childbirth :** similar to Homo sapiens in terms of physiology, movement of the child and presentation mode , but with a looser transit through the birth canal due to the larger dimensions of the pelvis.

Lactation three to four years, as some tribes of hunters and gatherers .

**Development :** probably almost as long and complex as our species, infancy, childhood, youth and adolescence phase , including a growth spurt of intensity similar to ours .

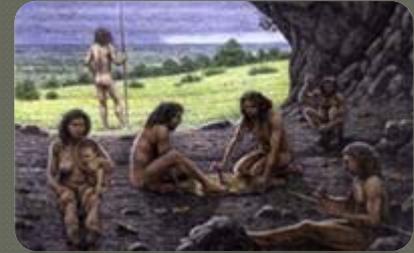
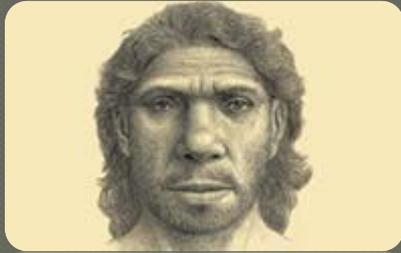
**Longevity :** Less than Homo sapiens. Your lifestyle does not allow for a life beyond 40 or 45 years. Life expectancy at birth would be between fifteen and twenty years .

**:Lifestyle and diet** hunters and gatherers of small animals , eggs and all kinds of edible wild plants. Know that your hygiene using toothpicks to clean between the teeth . They wore fur coats to avoid the cold and made tools of stone and wood.

**Camps :** building log cabins and perhaps animal skins, but also use of shelters and caves lobbies .

**Social organization:** small groups or clans of 15 to 40 individuals nested , and advocated exploiting the resources of a territory and conducted sporadic contact with other groups to avoid inbreeding .

**Possible causes of death :** childbirth , wound infections and oral cavity, trauma from accidental bumps or intraspecific predators violence.



# DESTINY

- European Middle Pleistocene populations evolved in Europe in terms of relative isolation , without genetic exchange with other populations , due to glaciation that affected the northern hemisphere. Isolation of thousands and thousands of years produced a peculiar evolution, and about 150 000 years ago these populations had differentiated into a kind of very special features : Homo neanderthalensis .

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Even Neanderthals lived in Europe for over 100 000 years and came to expand into Central Asia and the Middle East , where they came into contact with Homo sapiens. Our species had emerged simultaneously in Africa for thousands of years and we remained confined to that continent. However, about 50 000 years ago and for reasons not yet known , we experienced strong population growth , which led us to gradually invade the Eurasian continent . About 30 000 years disappeared last Neanderthals and our species took over completely in Europe.

# THE HEIDELBERGENSIS IN SPAIN (ATAPUERCA)

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- ◉ In the Sierra de Atapuerca some sites that contain information of material and ways of life of the populations of our species culture are known.

Yet little is known of the early populations of *Homo sapiens* , whose study has just started with the excavation of a site called the Valley of Orchids , which has about 30 000 years old .

Something more is known Holocene populations , brought to the region agriculture and livestock and a lifestyle and culture that is known as Mirador Neolítico. In Cave and the gate of the Cueva Mayor excavations are made from several years, that will determine the technology and economics of the first farmers in the Plateau. Call Flint gallery complex of Cueva Mayor keeps a shrine with burials dating back between about 6500 and about 2700 , who was sealed in the late Bronze Age . Their study is providing valuable information on the material culture , rock art , beliefs and traditions of these people of the Iberian peninsula.

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IT!!!!!!



WORK DONE  
BY MANUEL D.

