





Australopithecus robustus

Homo habilis

Homo erectus

Homo sapiens neanderthalensis

Homo sapiens sapiens



































# THE EVOLUTION OF HOMO SAPIENS

- Sapiens began to overrun the rest of planet Earth and drive other human species to extinction only about 70,000 years ago.
- Sapiens looked like us, but their cognitive abilities (e.g., learning, remembering, communicating) were far more limited.
- Sapiens did not have any marked advantage over other human species (e.g., neanderthals).
- Did not produce particularly sophisticated tools, and did not accomplish any other special feats.



**What neanderthals  
might have  
looked like today.**

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# WHAT CAUSED THE COGNITIVE REVOLUTION?

- Between 70,000 and 30,000 years ago, new ways of thinking and communicating appeared, constituting the Cognitive Revolution.
- We're not sure. Some believe a random mutation enabled them to think in unprecedented ways and to communicate using a new type of language.

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