

Humans and Neanderthals: An ancient love story

现代人和尼安德特人：远古爱情故事

- 关于台词的备注：
这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。
- 请注意：中文文字内容只提供简体版

科学家说，尼安德特人和现代人类祖先之间的异血缘性接触比我们原先的印象要更早。从一名尼安德特人染色体里发现的现代人祖先的DNA痕迹说明，现代人类祖先与尼安德特人开始交配融合的时间比已知时间要早四万年。以下是BBC Rebecca Morelle 的报道：

The ancient remains of a female Neanderthal found in a **remote** cave in the mountains of Siberia are the source of the latest revelations about the sex lives of our **ancestors**. Hidden within her genome are traces of DNA from modern humans which reveal a genetic **crossover** that took place 100,000 years ago.

It means that we were interbreeding with our heavy-browed, stocky and now **extinct** relatives much earlier than was thought. Previous research had suggested that the two species first mixed about 60,000 years ago when humans **migrated** out of Africa and started to spread around the world. As they left the continent they met and **mingled** with the Neanderthals, who lived across Europe and Asia.

But the finding that interbreeding took place tens of thousands of years before suggests that some early humans left Africa way ahead of the crowds. However the **circumstances** behind these early interspecies encounters remain unclear and whether they took place by choice or by force is not known.

词汇表

remote	遥远的, 偏远的
ancestors	祖先
crossover	交叉
extinct	绝种的, 已经灭绝的
migrated	迁徙, 移居
mingled	融合, (此处) 交配
circumstances	境况, 情形

测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. When did interbreeding between humans and Neanderthals first take place?
2. Where did humans meet the Neanderthals?
3. What does the reporter mean by "ahead of the crowds"?
4. Were humans forced to interbreed with Neanderthals?

答案

1. When did interbreeding between humans and Neanderthals first take place?

According to new research, 100,000 years ago.

2. Where did humans meet the Neanderthals?

They met in Europe and Asia, where the Neanderthals lived.

3. What does the reporter mean by "ahead of the crowds"?

Reporter Rebecca Morelle means that some humans started migrating out of Africa much earlier than the bigger migration which took place later on.

4. Were humans forced to interbreed with Neanderthals?

We don't know for sure. According to the report, the circumstances behind these early encounters are not clear. The researchers don't know whether they took place by choice or by force.