

Q. Write a note on Neanderthal man.

Ans: In Hominid evolution, the third stage is represented by the Neanderthal man.

Discovery: In 1856, a skull cap and some long bones were unearthed from a valley known as Neanderthal in Germany. Since that time, subsequent discoveries of numerous fossil finds were made in different parts of the world which has been attributed to the Neanderthal man. Each of these findings possesses a separate name on the basis of its excavation site where it was found. All of these fossil remains show a good number of common features due to which they may be grouped together as belonging to the Neanderthal race.

Age: The Neanderthal man flourished during Middle Palaeolithic period, which corresponds to the Mousterian cultural phase. At the end of the Lower Palaeolithic period the climate began to cool down and continued in the advanced Wurm glaciations.

Flora and fauna: The flora and fauna that are found in association with the skeletal remains indicate a very moist and too cold climate. The chief animals of this period were the woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros. Apart from this typical fauna, the evidences of extinct species of animals like cave lion, cave bear etc. were also found.

*The vault is very thick*  
*The forehead is very receding*  
*The face is long and M501 projected forwards.*  
*The temporal fossa are large*  
*The length 208 mm*  
*Breadth 155 mm*  
*cephalic = 74.5%*

Cultural material: A development of stone tools was an important phenomenon of this period. The stone tools were made from the flakes of flint and finished by chipping along the edges of one face only. The tool types include points and scrapers of various designs, and similar other artifacts.

*The skull is heavy looking and large*  
*The cranial capacity is 1600cc*

Physical character: The lower jaw is large and massive. There is no simian shelf. The remus is very wide and the sigmoid notch is very shallow. The chin is absent. The dental arch is 'U' shaped. There is no diastema. Though the dentition shows certain primitive features, it is definitely human.

The short, strong and stout bones of the skeleton suggest powerful muscular development. The vertebral column is short and massive. The ribs are strong. The clavicles are long, slender and larger than modern man. The forearm is very short in relation to the upper arm. The hand is human in character. The femur is massive, strong and bowed forward as in the apes with a weakly developed linea aspera.

Phylogenetic position: The Neanderthal man represents a new type in the human family and he is considered as a separate species within the genus *Homo*. Prof. Weidenreich and some other anthropologists are of opinion that Neanderthal men are the direct ancestors of modern man. The modern man evolved from the Neanderthal through a transitional stage of progressive types. But this theory has received severe criticism from different corners. According to Neule no modern human type can be called as a direct descendant of the Neanderthaloids. **(These physical characters are suitable for La Chapelle-aux Saints Neanderthal man also)**

Fate of the Neanderthal (end of Neanderthal): Once the Neanderthals were numerous and prominent over Europe. But gradually they became extinct. Some scholars suggest extermination by more progressive newcomers – the Cro-Magnons, through conflict or deadly war. Others propose that the Neanderthals were extinguished as a result of natural inconveniences like severe climatic condition, food crisis and catastrophic diseases. Third opinion emphasized more on the total absorption by the newcomers. Perhaps more than one factor was responsible for the extinction of the Neanderthal.

Q. Division of Neanderthal man.

Ans: Hooton has divided the Neanderthal man into two divisions – Conservative Neanderthal and Progressive Neanderthals. The conservative division shows the classical Neanderthaloid features whereas the progressive division has acquired a few more special characteristic features.

**Conservative Neanderthal:** The conservative Neanderthal possesses the classical Neanderthaloid feature. La Chapelle-aux Saints, La Moustier, La Quina etc. are the examples of the conservative Neanderthal. Stature is short. Stocky body built. Face is long and prognathous. Vault of the skull is low. Occiput is more or less in line with the neck. Large and continuous supra-orbital ridges. Flat cheek bone. Chin is absent. Teeth are large. Form of brain is primitive. Cranial capacity is 1400 cc. Absent of true linea aspera.

**Progressive Neanderthal:** The progressive Neanderthal shows a few more special characters which give the group a closer relationship with the Neanthropic man. Ehringsdorf, Steinheim, Krapina, Mount Carmel etc. are the members of the progressive Neanderthal. Man are tall, women are medium to short. Medium body built. Face is medium to short, orthognathous. Vault of the skull is medium and above medium. Occiput projects slightly beyond the neck. Supra-orbital ridges are large and there is a tendency to separate in the middle. Chin is well-developed. Teeth are not always large. Form of brain is advanced. Cranial capacity is 1518cc - 1587 cc. True linea aspera is present.