



**We Report.
You Decide.**

Search FOXNews.com
Search the Web with Live Search

GO

Sign Up Now!
Get e-mail alerts
when news breaks

ON FNC:

AMERICA'S NEWSROOM 9:00am EST
Hosted by Bill Hemmer and Megyn Kelly
[SCHEDULE](#)

HOME U.S. WORLD POLITICS BUSINESS HEALTH SCIENCE TECH ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO VIEWS MYNEWS SPORTS
WEATHER
RADIO MOBILE FOX & Friends Studio B Your World Big Story Special Report FOX Report O'Reilly Factor Hannity & Colmes On the Record FNC iMag FOX Fan

Win a Trip to the All-Star Game.

Trip For Two To The Game
On-field Press Credential
\$2000 Spending Cash

Enter Monster's **ULTIMATE ALL-STAR EXPERIENCE**

[Enter Now. >](#)

SCIENCE

[FOXNEWS.COM HOME](#) > [SCIENCE](#)

Climate Change May Have Helped Wipe Out Neanderthals

Monday, May 07, 2007

By **Dave Mosher**



[E-MAIL STORY](#) | [PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

- [SCIENCE HOME](#)
- [ARCHAEOLOGY](#)
- [ENERGY](#)
- [EVOLUTION & PALEONTOLOGY](#)
- [NATURAL DISASTERS](#)
- [NATURAL SCIENCE](#)
- [SPACE](#)
- [THE HUMAN BODY](#)
- [NEWS ARCHIVE](#)
- [HOT TOPICS](#)
 - [VIDEO: FOX NEWS FLASH](#)
 - [FOX NEWS ELECTION COVERAGE](#)
 - [CELEBRITY GOSSIP](#)
- [SECTION MAP](#)

SEE MORE

Send news tip to FOXNews.com

ADVERTISEMENT



A Neanderthal skeleton, foreground, and a modern human one at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. AP

Neanderthals disappeared from Earth more than 20,000 years ago, but figuring out exactly why has continued to challenge anthropologists.

One team of scientists, however, now says they have evidence to back climate change as the main culprit.

The Iberian peninsula, better known as present-day Spain and Portugal, was one of the last Neanderthal refuges.

• [Click here to visit FOXNews.com's Evolution & Paleontology Center.](#)

Many scientists have thought that out-hunting by Homo sapiens and interbreeding with them brought Neanderthals to their demise, but

climate change has also been proposed.

Francisco Jiménez-Espejo, a paleoclimatologist at the University of Granada in Spain, says a lack of evidence has left climate change weakly supported — until now.

"We put data behind the theory," he said, filling in a large gap in European climate records when **Neanderthals** faded out of existence.

(Story continues below)

ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISE HERE

Visit joinrudy2008.com

Rudy on the issues. Videos and more.
www.joinrudy2008.com

Hire Stellar Employees

Find high quality candidates. Over 23 million job seekers.
www.CareerBuilder.com

RELATED

The scientists' study is detailed in a recent issue of [Quaternary Science Reviews](#).

STORIES

[Volcanoes May Have Triggered Massive Global Warming](#)

Cold spell

To figure out the temperature, water supply and windiness of Iberia from 20,000 to 40,000 years ago, the scientists looked at sediments on the ocean floor off Spain and Portugal.

Because wind or water erode rocky minerals differently, the pebbles and fragments wash into the sea in different ratios, creating a steady track record of land conditions at the bottom of the ocean.

The scientists also focused on **barite**, a compound gathered by marine animals. The more barite in sediment, the more lively the oceans were at the time.

"When we found big drops in marine productivity, we knew there were big changes in climatic condition in Iberia," Jiménez-Espejo says.

The study reveals three rough climatic periods for Neanderthals, with the last and harshest period starting about 26,000 years ago.

"The last event was very, very cold and dry," Jiménez-Espejo says, "and other than 250,000 years ago, such a harsh climate was never reached before."

Other reasons

But is climate change the only reason Neanderthals died out?

"We're not saying that," Jiménez-Espejo said. "What we are saying: Neanderthals struggled with climate change more than modern humans, and during the period of their extinction, very unfavorable climatic conditions were present."

To reach North America, humans eventually migrated across **Siberia** and learned to survive in the icy regions.

But "Neanderthals couldn't make the trip," Jiménez-Espejo said.

This fact, the team believes, highlights the weakness of Neanderthals to cold, open environments — as Iberia would have been at the time of their extinction.

Other scientists think less game for Neanderthals to hunt — and not having modern humans' skills to hunt them — probably sealed our human cousins' demise.

Yet others believe Neanderthals never went extinct and instead interbred their genes into our own, as recent skeletal evidence might suggest.

Copyright © 2007 Imaginova Corp. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

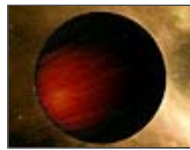
[See Next Story in Science](#)

[E-MAIL STORY](#) | [PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

- U.S.
- WORLD
- POLITICS
- BUSINESS
- HEALTH
- SCIENCE
- TECH
- ENTERTAINMENT

Science Section

Top News Story



Sizzling Hot Planet Makes Some Stars Look Cool
 HD 149026b, 279 light-years away, is charcoal black and so hot it glows a deep red.

Featured Content

- [Archaeology](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Evolution & Paleontology](#)
- [Natural Disasters](#)
- [See More](#)

AP WIRES

- [Envoy: Climate Change Must Be Addressed](#)
- [Hubble Astronauts Meet With Astronomers](#)
- [Experts: Brown Widow Spider Seen in La.](#)
- [Toxic Acid Blamed in Deaths of Seabirds](#)
- [Phoenix Mars Lander Arrives in Florida](#)
- [Scientists: Storms Power Winds on Saturn](#)
- [Bear Kills Moose in Alaska Driveway](#)
- [Scientists Work on Encyclopedia of Life](#)
- [Archaeologists Find Tomb of King Herod](#)
- [Experts: Turtles Drawn to Light Sticks](#)

[News Archive](#)

MARKETPLACE

- [TRAVEL](#)
- [JOBS](#)
- [AUTOS](#)
- [REAL ESTATE](#)
- [MORTGAGES](#)
- [PERSONALS](#)
- [RELATIONSHIPS](#)

I am a Seeking

Man Women

Between and Zip Code

25 45

[SEARCH](#)

 Find a Flight	 Find a Job	 Foreclosures	 Find a Date
 Find a Mortgage	 Find a Car	 Find Love	 Free Credit Score
 5.05% APY. No	 Fox News Shop		

[SEARCH](#)

[News Alerts](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Make FOXNEWS.COM Your Home Page](#)

- [Home](#) | [U.S.](#) | [World](#) | [Politics](#) | [FOX News Polls](#) | [Business](#) | [Health](#) | [Science](#) | [Tech](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Video](#) | [Views](#) | [MyNews](#) | [Sports](#) | [Weather](#)
[Radio](#) | [Mobile](#) | [FOX & Friends](#) | [Studio B](#) | [Your World](#) | [Big Story](#) | [Special Report](#) | [FOX Report](#) | [O'Reilly Factor](#) | [Hannity & Colmes](#) | [On the Record](#) | [FNC](#)
[iMag](#) | [FOX Fan](#) | [News Archive](#) | [FOX Around The World](#) | [FOX Sports](#) | [Contact US](#) | [Upgrade Central](#) | [FAQs](#)

Advertise on Fox News Channel, FOXNews.com and FOX News Radio. Advertising Specifications (PDF). Jobs at FOX News Channel. Internships At Fox News (Summer Application Deadline was March 15, 2007)
[Terms of use](#). [Privacy Statement](#). For FOXNews.com comments write to foxnews@foxnews.com; For FOX News Channel comments write to yourcomments@foxnews.com
 This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. © 2007 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. All market data delayed 20 minutes.