

Early humans were bad at drawing

13th February, 2018



An early species of humans who lived between 120,000 and 35,000 years ago were not as good at drawing as early modern humans. The species is called Neanderthal man. They became

extinct tens of thousands of years ago. They had large brains and made complex tools to hunt, but they never showed the ability to draw recognizable images. This is unlike early modern humans who drew animals and other figures on rocks and cave walls. Professor Richard Coss, an expert on pre-historic drawings, studied ancient photos and video film of early art. He studied charcoal drawings and engravings of animals made by human artists from 28,000 to 32,000 years ago in southern France.

A professor said the difference in artistic skills could be because of the way they hunted. Neanderthal man hunted tamer animals that were easier to kill. However, early modern humans hunted more dangerous animals. This needed better hand-eye coordination. Professor Coss said: "Neanderthals could mentally visualize previously seen animals from working memory, but they were unable to translate those mental images effectively into the coordinated hand-movement patterns required for drawing." Professor Coss said early modern humans used drawings to plan hunts and to focus on and discuss which parts of an animal's body to target.

Sources:
davisenterprise.com / sciencedaily.com / dailygalaxy.com

Writing

Drawing is a very important skill we must all use in our life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

species / good at drawing / modern / humans / extinct / complex / tools / cave walls / difference / artistic skills / hunted / dangerous animals / translate / patterns / body

True / False

- A species of humans who lived 100,000 years ago were great artists. T / F
- Neanderthal man did not have the ability to make tools. T / F
- The article says early modern humans were able to draw 3D images. T / F
- A professor studied 30,000-year-old charcoal drawings in France. T / F
- The professor said hunting affected people's drawing skills. T / F
- More modern humans killed less dangerous animals. T / F
- Neanderthal man lacked the hand-eye coordination for drawing. T / F
- Early modern humans used drawings to help them hunt better. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. species | a. needed |
| 2. extinct | b. complicated |
| 3. complex | c. change |
| 4. images | d. very old |
| 5. ancient | e. type |
| 6. skills | f. imagine |
| 7. visualize | g. aim for |
| 8. translate | h. wiped out |
| 9. required | i. talents |
| 10. target | j. pictures |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about early humans?
- What was life like 100,000 years ago?
- How good are you at drawing?
- How important is cave art and the drawings of early modern man?
- Do you prefer cave art or modern art?
- What do you know about Neanderthal man?
- How important is the ability to draw?
- Why can some people draw well and others can't?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. An early species | a. to draw |
| 2. They became | b. body to target |
| 3. they never showed the ability | c. on rocks and cave walls |
| 4. humans who drew animals and other figures | d. for drawing |
| 5. an expert on pre- | e. tamer animals |
| 6. Neanderthal man hunted | f. eye coordination |
| 7. This needed better hand- | g. of humans |
| 8. patterns required | h. plan hunts |
| 9. early modern humans used drawings to | i. extinct |
| 10. parts of an animal's | j. historic drawings |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is a 50,000-year-old cave painting more important than the Mona Lisa?
- What artistic skills do you have?
- What would it be like to hunt for your food every day?
- How good is your hand-eye coordination?
- What would you do if you went back 50,000 years in time?
- What is your favourite drawing, and why?
- What questions would you like to ask the professor?

Spelling

- An early esiceps of humans
- They became txenic
- tens of nsohtsuda of years ago
- humans who drew animals and other esrifqu
- an tperxe on pre-historic drawings
- 32,000 years ago in rshtuone France
- the difference in iisattcr skills
- hunted more dsraenoug animals
- better hand-eye odicoiaotnrr
- mentally visualize esuroypilv seen animals
- hand-movement nstaeprr
- degerriu for drawing

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. i	7. f	8. c	9. a	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Cave Paintings

You think cave paintings is the best kind of art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): African art, graffiti art or religious art.

Role B – African Art

You think African art is the best kind of art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cave paintings, graffiti art or religious art.

Role C – Graffiti Art

You think graffiti art is the best kind of art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): African art, cave paintings or religious art.

Role D – Religious Art

You think religious art is the best kind of art. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): African art, graffiti art or cave paintings.

Speaking – Art

Rank these with your partner. Put the best kinds of art at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • modern art | • cave paintings |
| • graffiti art | • Japanese art |
| • religious art | • African art |
| • installation art | • Aboriginal art |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.