

## Surprise: Ancient europeans had dark skin and blue eyes

Apologies to Frank Sinatra, but the real Ol' Blue Eyes has been found—a 7,000-year-old Spaniard whose fossil genes reveal that early Europeans sported blue eyes and dark skin.

Mapping the blue-eyed boy's genes is part of ongoing effort to uncover the DNA of ancient humans. The new study in *Nature*, led by Inigo Olalde of Spain's Institut de Biologia Evolutiva in Barcelona, reports the genetic map of a skeleton found in a Spanish cave.

Scholars had suspected that blue eyes arrived as an import into Europe, brought by late-arriving farmers who invaded the continent more than 5,000 years ago. Contrary to the conventional picture of a blue-eyed, fair-haired northern European, the study suggests that blue eyes were already common among the continent's early hunter-gatherers, along with darker skin.

**Read the full, original story:** [Blue-Eyed Hunter-Gatherers Roamed Prehistoric Europe, Gene Map Reveals](#)

### Additional Resources:

- [How Farming Reshaped Our Genomes](#), Science
- [Modern Europe's Genetic History Starts in Stone Age](#), National Geographic
- [Swarthy, blue-eyed caveman revealed using DNA from ancient tooth](#), Guardian