

9 significant archaeological discoveries of the past decade, including a Neanderthal-Denisovan hybrid

Here's a look back at some of the most significant archaeological and anthropological discoveries of the past decade that fundamentally changed our understanding of human origins.

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The discovery of a new human species—Homo naledi

In 2013, scientists stumbled upon one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the decade: [a previously unknown extinct human species](#), which they named Homo naledi.

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The sequencing of Neanderthal and Denisovan genomes

In 2010, scientists managed to [sequence the Neanderthal genome](#). According to archaeogeneticist Christiana Scheib from the University of Cambridge, this achievement not only answered a “hotly debated” question about whether modern humans mated with Neanderthals, it also kickstarted an entirely new field of study in which scientists could study archaic DNA.

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The discovery of a Neanderthal-Denisovan hybrid

In 2018, a [genetic analysis](#) of a bone fragment found in Siberia's Denisova Cave revealed the presence of an individual who had a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father.

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The world's oldest drawing

Archaeologists from the University of the Witwatersrand uncovered the [oldest known drawing](#) after analyzing a rock, dubbed L13, found in a South Africa's Blombos Cave in 2011.

Read full, original post: [How This Decade of Archaeology Changed What We Know About Human Origins](#)