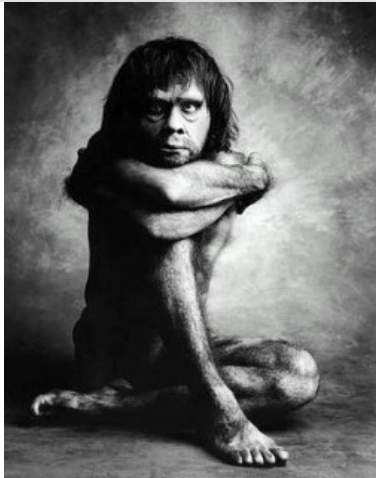


Missing link found - Ida, the 47 million-year-old fossil

Scientists have unveiled the missing link between humans and apes at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The missing link is a 47 million-year-old primate, and the discovery has been dubbed as the Holy Grail of human evolution. The fossil is of a lemur-like animal which was nicknamed Ida, while the official name is *Darwinius masillae* because the creature is the proof that confirms the Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Ida was found by amateur fossil hunters in a crater located near Frankfurt in 1983, then the fossil was bought by the University of Oslo, and it was studied by John Hurum, and Jens Franzen who said that this is "the eighth Wonder of the World."



Read more at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/05/090519-missing-link-found.html>



Neanderthal genome to be unveiled

The entire genome of a 38,000-year-old Neanderthal has been sequenced by a team of scientists in Germany. The group is already extracting DNA from other ancient Neanderthal bones and hopes that the genomes will allow an unprecedented comparison between modern humans and their closest evolutionary relative. Almost all of the Neanderthal genome to be unveiled in Chicago comes from DNA extracted from a single bone originally discovered in a cave near Vindija in Croatia.

Read more at: <http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090204/full/457645a.html>

Oliver Twist's diet

Charles Dickens describes Oliver's diet as "three meals of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week and half a roll on Sunday." On feast days, the inmates received an extra two and a quarter ounces (60 g) of bread. The dilemma was of "being starved by a gradual process in the house or by a quick one out of it." But how true is this of the average workhouse? Surviving menus and other material concerning early 19th century workhouse diets provide some answers. Jonathan Pereira's *Treatise on Food and Diet with Observations on the Dietetical Regimen* (1843) describes the "workhouse dietaries" which were adopted for use in poorhouses throughout England in 1836.



Read more at: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/dec17_2/a2722

Neolithic men were prepared to fight for their women

Many archaeologists have argued that women have long motivated cycles of violence and blood feuds throughout history but there has really been no solid archaeological evidence to support this view. Now a relatively new method has been used to work out the origins of the victims tossed into a mass grave of skeletons, and so distinguish one tribe from another, revealing that neighbouring tribes were prepared to kill their male rivals to secure their women some 7000 years ago.



Read more at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2066554/Neolithic-men-were-prepared-to-fight-for-their-women.html>



Read more at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSTRE54C57K20090514?feedType=RSS&feedName=scienceNews>

Climate change wiped out cave bears 13 millennia earlier than thought

Enormous cave bears, *Ursus spelaeus*, that once inhabited a large swathe of Europe, from Spain to the Urals, died out 27,800 years ago, around 13 millennia earlier than was previously believed. The new date coincides with a period of significant climate change, known as the Last Glacial Maximum, when a marked cooling in temperature resulted in the reduction or loss of vegetation forming the main component of the cave bears' diet. In a study published in *Boreas*, researchers suggest it was this deterioration in food supply that led to the extinction of the cave bear, one of a group of 'megafauna'.



Read more at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081125203143.htm>