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Why Did Neanderthals Go Extinct?

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ABSTRACT

This poster seeks to understand how Neanderthals went extinct, mainly by examining their relationship with early homo sapiens, environmental factors and resource management, and if the use of the word “extinct” is a valid choice in this context. I'm answering this question via a critical lit review, where I have analyzed various academic articles and research papers from the 1980 into 2021. In order to illustrate the expansive range of theories and changing perspectives as development of new findings and genetic testing come into play. The evolving theories have shown that Neanderthals did not simply die out. A moderate population of Neanderthals interbreed with early humans, some migrated to much further corners of the globe where they lived out their days and solitude, and others disappeared due to changing climate and resource competition.