

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

May 11, 1996  
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**To Test No More**

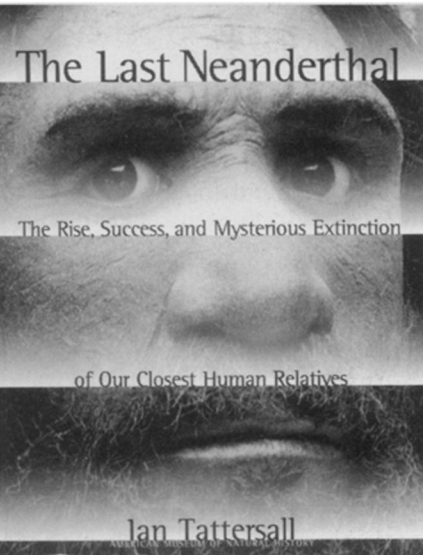
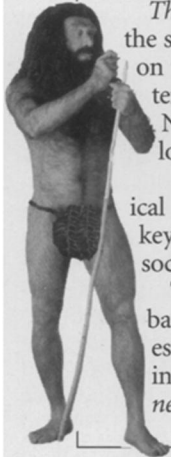
No early human relative has triggered more scientific debate or more strongly captured our imagination than Neanderthal Man. Why, after brilliantly surviving several severe Ice Age glaciations to thrive for 200,000 years—twice as long as modern humans have been on Earth—did Neanderthals all of a sudden drop out of sight? That they disappeared astonishingly recently—less than 30,000 years ago, just when early *Homo sapiens* were appearing in Europe—makes the mystery even more tantalizing.

Scientists have long known that the popular image of the Neanderthal as a primitive, hairy, heavily browed, club-wielding brute is not supported by the fossil evidence. But to date, no such consensus has existed on the riddle of Neanderthals' disappearance. Did they interbreed with our direct ancestors, so that we see Neanderthal traits in our populations today? Or were they wiped out in some sort of prehistoric battle-of-the-species when a more advanced group—our direct ancestors—appeared on the scene?

*The Last Neanderthal* is written by one of the most respected authorities on the subject and supported with a dazzling wealth of visual material. Drawing on the latest findings and sophisticated new techniques of analysis, Ian Tattersall marshals the best available evidence to unravel the mysteries of the Neanderthals—who they were, how they lived, how they succeeded for so long, and—the most intriguing question—what happened to them.

Assembled for this book is an unparalleled collection of fossil and archaeological materials. The wealth of photography includes key discoveries that illuminate Neanderthal art, social organization technology, and way of life.

Tattersall's vivid account brings the Neanderthals back to life in these pages. It rewards anyone interested in human origins with a wonderfully absorbing story and a glorious visual record of *Homo neanderthalensis*. —from Macmillan



## The Last Neanderthal

The Rise, Success, and Mysterious Extinction

of Our Closest Human Relatives

Ian Tattersall

Macmillan, 1995, 208 pages, 9" x 11 1/4",  
hardcover, \$39.95

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Rutgers University Press, 1996, 222 pages, 6" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$25.95

What if there were three sexes?

What if Earth didn't have a moon?

What if all the air in the room went into one corner?

What if you fell into a black hole?

What if you could unscramble an egg?

Eavesdrop on these free-wheeling conversations and stretch your imagination in 120 different directions! In these flippant "what if" dialogues about everything from sex, aliens, dogs, and dinosaurs to space, matter, and time, Robert Ehrlich blurs the boundaries between science fact and science fiction. Come travel through these zany alternative universes—and understand our own a bit better!

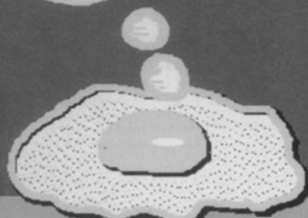
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Robert Ehrlich

ILLUSTRATIONS BY GARY EHRLICH

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What if you could unscramble an egg?



THE BARTENDER AT PLANK'S PLACE HAS A LOT OF TROUBLE GETTING DRINKS TO STOP IN FRONT OF THE PATRONS.

Everyone has taken more than one pill simultaneously. Yet every time you combine drugs (even apparently innocuous ones such as aspirin or antacids) with prescription medicines, food, vitamins, minerals, herbs, or alcohol, you expose yourself to the risk of a potentially life-threatening drug interaction—or an interaction that can cancel out the intended effect of your medicine.

*The People's Guide to Deadly Drug Interactions* organizes the thousands of hazardous combinations into easy-to-read, easy-to-understand Interaction Charts that show whether a drug combo may be life-threatening, dangerous, or troublesome—and, most important, describes the symptoms of those interactions.

For example, it clearly shows:

- Foods that may interact with MAO inhibitors.
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- Antacids that can affect antibiotics.
- Prescription and OTC drugs that can interact with vitamins and minerals.
- Herbal remedies that don't mix well with drugs.
- How, when, and with what to take your medicine.

—from St. Martin's Press

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- Scissor printing clearly shows whether a drug combo is life-threatening, dangerous, or troublesome
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JOE GRAEDON and TERESA GRAEDON, Ph.D.  
Authors of the #1 Bestseller *The People's Pharmacy*

St. Martin's Press, 1995, 434 pages,  
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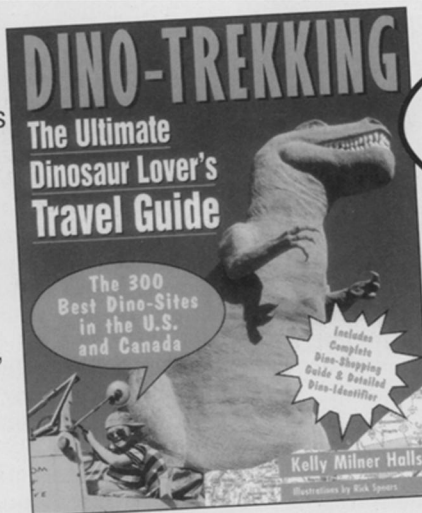
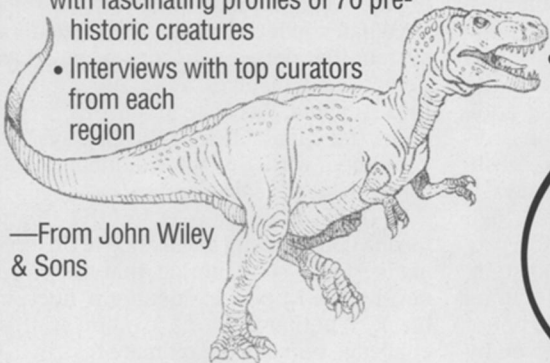
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Looking for the best dinosaur museums? The oldest fossil exhibit? The widest selection of dinosaur memorabilia and souvenirs? This fun-filled, informative guide has the answers for die-hard-dino fans of all ages. You'll find:

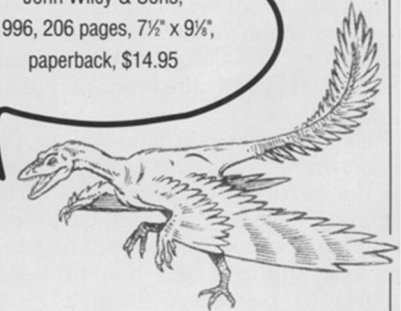
- Listings of more than 300 dinosaur sites across the United States and Canada—museums, nature preserves, even amusement parks
- Details on admission prices, refreshments, and travelers' conveniences
- A Dino-Shopping Guide with details on dozens of mail-order sources for games, toys, clothing, software, and more
- An illustrated "Who's Who" Dino-Identifier with fascinating profiles of 70 pre-historic creatures

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—From John Wiley & Sons



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