

You have Farmers and Hunter-gatherers as a part of your ancestors



73%

Your Hunter-gatherer index

This is a relative value that indicates how much DNA you have from ancient Hunter-gatherers. The higher the percentile, the more you have Hunter-gatherers DNA. It is derived from the comparison between your DNA and the DNA of fossil samples.



24%

Your Farmer-index

By comparing the Hunter-gatherer index, you'll see if you are more closely related to Farmers or Hunter-gatherers. This is a relative value to compare the relation with the two ancestors.

Tools and handicrafts

What tools they used define who they are. Both Hunter-gatherers and Farmers invented very unique tools and improved their quality of life. We'll introduce how they develop these tools and handicrafts.



Spear

The spear is older than modern humans in Europe. Even Neanderthals seem to have used short thrusting spears. Today the spear is seen as warlike, but for European foragers the spear was an utilitarian tool which promised protein.



Plough

The plough transformed the ability of farmers to obtain sustenance from the soil, as humans could harness animal power to tend to their fields. Societies powered by the plough were wealthier, richer, and more populous. The ability of men to manipulate the plough due to their greater strength also gave rise of patriarchal societies.

More than 10 differences in the tools, handicrafts, appearance, diet, housing and lifestyle



Between agriculturalists and hunter-gatherer

12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age the world was born anew, after a 103,000 year Ice Age. The last time the ice had retreated, during the Eemian interglacial that spanned 115,000 to 130,000 before the present, humans had come in many flavors and forms, from Neanderthals in the northwest, Denisovans in the east, and our own African lineage in the south. All that ended about 50,000 years ago, as African humans expanded across the globe, absorbing our cousin-lineages along the way. But the current epoch, the Holocene, was not to be the reign of Homo sapiens the hunter. Foraging, hunting and gathering across the landscape, as any animal would do, was about to be challenged by a new lifestyle, as humans began to have domain over the land and the beasts.



San hunter

11,500 years ago a group of foragers in the Near East settled down, abandoning their primal way of life, and began to cultivate grain and husband animals.

This was the beginning of the Neolithic revolution, a cultural change that would transform what it meant to be human, and lead to the rise of both incredible cultural productivity and misery. Today only a few populations maintain the one million year tradition of hunting and gathering, the Kalahari Bushmen, the Andaman Islanders, the Pygmies of the Congo rainforest, and some isolated populations in Siberia and the Amazon. Every other human society has adopted agriculture and its daughter mode of life, urban civilization.

But this transformation did not happen overnight. In Scandinavia foragers maintained an independent culture down to 2300 BC, long after hunting and gathering had faded away in continental Europe. Meanwhile, Australia was dominated by hunter-gatherers until the conquest by Europeans in the 18th century. And some populations moved fluidly between foraging, pastoralism and agriculture. The early Mongols periodically retreated to the Siberian forests when under duress, switching away from animal husbandry. In The Secret History of Mongols it is recounted that at one point Genghis Khan and his family were expelled from their tribe, and had to survive for years as impoverished hunters and gatherers in forested lands. Of course, hunting could be pleasurable if one was not always on the edge of starvation. The love of the hunt remained an essential part of European elite culture for centuries. When Louis XVI's diaries were examined after his execution during the French Revolution, most of them were notes that he "went hunting."

More chapters available in the report

"The two million year odyssey"

"The first farmers and their wave of advance"

"They came, they saw, and they cultivated"

"They came they built"

"The end of the world as they knew it"