

Homo Sapiens, Neanderthal, Erectus and Heidelbergensis

No — Homo sapiens did not evolve from Homo neanderthalensis (Neanderthals).

Instead, it is ASSUMED, both species, Homo sapiens and Neanderthals, shared a common ancestor and then split into separate evolutionary paths:

Evolutionists ASSUME (no DNA evidence) that the common ancestor is THOUGHT to have been an early human species, probably Homo heidelbergensis (or a close relative), which lived about 600,000–800,000 years ago in Africa and Eurasia, and which evolved to Homo Erectus. Homo heidelbergensis is one of those “bridge” species that scientists pieced together from scattered fossil finds rather than a single complete skeleton, thereby making a huge assumption.

From this ancestor, Homo Erectus, one branch moved into Europe and Asia, evolving into Neanderthals, while others remained in Africa and eventually gave rise to Homo sapiens about 300,000 years ago.

If Homo Neanderthal originated from Homo Erectus, elements of Erectus DNA would be present and yet Homo sapiens is an entirely different species to Neanderthal because Sapiens has mitochondrial DNA and Erectus does not. Neanderthal does have mitochondrial DNA, but Erectus does not?

Neanderthals hail from Europe and Erectus from Asia. Sapiens originates in Africa.

When modern humans left Africa (~60,000 years ago), they encountered Neanderthals in Europe and Asia. They interbred, which is why non-African people today still carry about 1–2% Neanderthal DNA.

So, Neanderthals were not our ancestors and quite unlikely that Erectus was our ancestor either. A lot of assumptions causing confusion, something evolutionists do not like so, leaving the gaps, they come up with a contiguous theory that they sell to lesser mortals who believe them because they are scientists.

In the development of evolutionary theory, have scientists ever been wrong?

Yes — in evolutionary theory, scientists **have been wrong before**, but that’s part of how science works: it’s **self-correcting**. Evolutionary biology is a field that has changed a lot as new evidence has come in. Here’s a breakdown:

1. Early misunderstandings

- **Darwin (1859)** proposed natural selection, but he had **very little fossil evidence** and no knowledge of genetics (there we go!).
- Some of his ideas about gradual change were challenged once paleontologists found “sudden” appearances of new species in the fossil record (such as Homo sapiens.)

2. Misidentified fossils

- Early human fossils were often **misclassified**:
 - *Homo erectus* was originally called *Pithecanthropus erectus* (“Java Man”), and scientists debated whether it was human or ape.
 - Neanderthals were once thought to be **diseased modern humans** rather than a distinct species.
 - *Homo floresiensis* (“the Hobbit”) was at first considered a pathological modern human.

3. Molecular surprises

- DNA studies have corrected many assumptions:
 - Non-African humans **interbred, voluntarily or involuntarily, with Neanderthals and Denisovans**, something we didn’t know from fossils alone. Subsequently, Homo Neanderthal DNA has been discovered in African Homo sapiens DNA.
 - Some populations carry genetic traces of unknown hominins in Asia — revealing **cryptic branches** of the human family tree.

4. Changing views of the tree of life

- The old idea of a **linear evolution** (“ape → Homo erectus → Homo sapiens”) is now replaced by a **branching bush**, with overlapping species and frequent interbreeding (how convenient, and yet another ASSUMPTION).
- Some species we thought were “ancestors” turned out to be so-called **cousins**.

Key point

Being “wrong” in science doesn’t mean the theory is useless — it means **evidence leads to refinement**. Evolutionary theory itself has **never been overturned**, but details about timing, species relationships, and human ancestry have

evolved with new data. If you want, I can make a **timeline of major corrections in human evolution** showing how scientists' understanding has changed over the last 150 years. It's quite eye-opening.

Here's a **timeline of major corrections in human evolutionary theory**, showing how our understanding has changed over time:

Timeline of Key Corrections in Human Evolutionary Science

1859 – Darwin publishes *On the Origin of Species*

- Proposed natural selection as the mechanism of evolution.
- **Mistake:** Lacked fossil evidence and understanding of genetics; evolution was assumed gradual and linear.

1868–1891 – Early “missing links”

- Fossils like *Neanderthal 1* (1856) were discovered.
- Initially thought to be **diseased modern humans**, not a separate species.

Correction: Recognized as distinct species much later.

1891 – Java Man (*Homo erectus*)

- Fossil of *Pithecanthropus erectus* discovered.
- Initially debated: ape? human? intermediate?

Correction: Later classified as *Homo erectus*, a distinct human ancestor.

1920s–1930s – Piltdown Man hoax

- Claimed “missing link” in England; turned out to be **a fake**.
- Impact: Misled researchers for decades.

Correction: Exposed in 1953 with chemical testing and better fossil comparisons.

1950s–1970s – Neanderthals reconsidered

- Once thought brutish, hunched, and primitive.

Correction: Fossil evidence and archaeology showed they were **intelligent, tool-using, culturally capable**.

1970s–2000s – New species discovered

- *Homo floresiensis* (“Hobbit”) – initially thought pathological modern humans.
- *Homo luzonensis* – small-bodied species, unique island adaptations.

Correction: Recognized as **separate species**, not modern humans.

1990s–2010s – Ancient DNA revolution

- First Neanderthal mtDNA sequenced (1997).
- Later, full genomes of Neanderthals and Denisovans.

Corrections:

- Some, not all, non-African and African *Homo sapiens* carry **1–2% Neanderthal DNA**.
- Denisovans contributed DNA to populations in Asia and Oceania.
- Some (unknown?) hominins contributed genes in Asia.

Today – Human evolution as a “branching bush”

- Mistake: Linear “ape → *Homo erectus* → *Homo sapiens*” model.

Correction: Multiple species coexisted, interbred, and overlapped across time and space.

Modern view: Evolution is **complex, non-linear, and reticulate**. This is to argue against creationism.

Takeaway:

Scientists have often been “wrong”, and will probably still be wrong, about specific fossils, species, or timelines, but **the theory of evolution itself has only strengthened** as new evidence emerged (really!?). Every correction has refined our understanding of **how *Homo sapiens* (humans) evolved** (and yet more corrections will no doubt reveal more of the real truth.)

Denialism is the rejection of the alternate to one's belief of well-supported facts and concepts in areas like science and history, often using rhetorical tactics such as cherry-picking data, conspiracy theories, and fake experts to create the impression of a legitimate debate where none exists. Unlike simple denial, denialism, fueled by convenient assumptions and stubbornness to face and admit truth, is a systematic attempt to block acknowledgement of reality, making it difficult to undermine, with appeals to a version of the truth, and it has serious consequences for societal progress and public health.