The Last Neanderthal

Read the text again.

THE LAST NEANDERTHAL

Homo sapiens love telling stories.

Shh Shrimp, listen to my story!

Did you know that we weren't the first people to walk the earth? The earliest people evolved from apes and started walking upright. Then another people, Homo erectus, discovered how to make stone tools, and the Stone Age began – luckily for us! Otherwise, without spears and knives, we would probably have starved to death or been wiped out by other animals with bigger teeth and stronger muscles. Homo erectus evolved into Homo sapiens – modern humans! We became king of the beasts … but once, long ago, we shared the planet with another kind of people: Neanderthals.

I'm Rocky the rock hyrax by the way!

Can you understand what they say?

No, but they're strong!

Srehtaef etahl!

The Neanderthals were descended from apes too, and like us, they lived in small groups, or clans. Their bodies were slow and stocky, they lived mostly in caves, and they were as strong as cave bears! They spoke a strange language that we Homo sapiens didn't understand.

I'll be keeping out of sight or they'll eat me.

Look! A Neander-thingy is taking our food!

You must share.

Yaw on!

Oob!

Our clan, Clan Woolly, lived in harmony with the Neanderthals. There was food enough for everyone back then.

Anyone for iced boar on the rocks?

Uh!

Then the world grew colder. The land froze and both people and animals struggled to survive.

There goes breakfast, lunch and supper.

I'd rather it ate the bird than us.

Wild beasts prowled about trying to steal the clan's food – or even eat clan members!

Hyraxes and Homo sapiens survive by living in groups.

That's one berry each.

Boo!

With each passing moon, food grew scarcer for everyone.

They just don't have our hunting skills.

Clan Woolly saw fewer and fewer Neanderthals …

A whole clan dead!

… and more and more bones of starved Neanderthals.

Meet n group

He's a bit thin.

Fanged if I care!

Gobble up or the Neanderthals will steal him.

They're lousy hunters, but they're strong!

Doof!

One icy day, the Woollies trapped and speared a sabre-toothed tiger. It was very skinny, but they didn't mind – the meat would still provide a welcome meal after days of hunger and unsuccessful hunting.

Hyraxes are herbivores (plant eaters Homo sapie will eat an Stone Ag thing!

OLD STONE AGE

120,000 BC

Slamina tnuh ew.

Tae ot seirreb rehtag ew.

Daed ruo yrub ew.

Worram enob evol ew!

NEANDERTHALS HAD BIG BRAINS, BUT THEY PROBABLY USED MORE BRAINPOWER THAN HOMO SAPIENS TO CONTROL THEIR LARGER BODIES, SO THEY HAD LESS BRAINPOWER FOR LANGUAGE.

NEANDERTHAL PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN EUROPE AND ASIA.

HOMO SAPIENS HAD BETTER LANGUAGE SKILLS THAN NEANDERTHALS. EACH CLAN WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR OWN LANGUAGE.

We Homo sapiens are hunter-gatherers too.

We're not as strong as Neanderthals.

But we're faster.

We make better tools.

And we're longer lasting!

100,000

HOMO SAPIENS ARE LIVING IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

The Stone Age was a good time to live.
Agree or Disagree?
Why?

From today's text....

Tell me something new that you have learnt
Something that you have been reminded of
Something that you already knew