Read in 3 Minutes. Take Notes.

The Upper Paleolithic Revolution refers to the period during which *Homo sapiens,* or modem humans, started exhibiting distinctly human behavior for the first time. Among these behaviors was the development of sophisticated stone tools, as well as the creation

of language and artwork According to the available evidence, it is likely that the Upper Paleolithic Revolution occurred in mainland Europe about 40,000 years ago.

First, there are indications that around 40,000 years ago, an earlier type of human, called the European Neanderthal, went extinct. The extinction of the European Neanderthal coincides with the population boom of modern humans in Europe. The population boom is supported by the discovery of large amounts of skeletal remains of modem humans that date to around 40,000 years ago. These discoveries suggest that modern humans took the place of European Neanderthals and were probably able to do so because they had developed superior tools, like stone knives, that helped them catch food and survive.

Next, climate records suggest that Europe provided the conditions necessary for the revolution. According to the records, Europe experienced a period of lower than normal temperatures starting around 70,000 years ago until about 10,000 years ago. Scientists believe that the cold climate prompted modern humans that were living in Europe at the time to create better tools in order to survive. For example, by inventing fishing tools, they were able to catch food despite the abnormally cold weather.

Finally, the first example of modern figurative art appeared in Europe during the Upper Paleolithic Revolution. The Venus of Honk Fels*,* a stone statue from Germany, dates to around 35,000- 40,000 years ago. This is an early example of sophisticated artwork and no earlier examples exist elsewhere.

Source: Collins