HOW DID DENISOVANS SURVIVE IN CHINA THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Researchers studying Bianfu Cave in southwestern China have identified three Denisovan bones, four teeth and more than 1,300 stone tools. The finds include the first known Denisovan forearm bone and connect these ancient humans directly with tools and animal remains. The bones are between about 167,000 and 134,000 years old. The discovery suggests Denisovans lived much farther south than first thought and helps scientists understand how they hunted and used technology.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The story gives students a vivid example of how new evidence changes ideas about human evolution and migration. Denisovans were once known mainly from DNA and a single finger bone. These finds provide more direct evidence of their lives and show that the human past included several different human groups living across Asia.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“How can bones and tools show how ancient people lived?”

Source: National Geographic

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/denisovans-forearm-bone-china