WHAT CAN ONE STONE AGE WOMAN TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE MOVING ACROSS EUROPE?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Scientists have studied the DNA of a woman who lived about 30,000 years ago and whose bones were found in a cave in southwestern France. Her genetic evidence suggests that people from eastern and western Europe were connected much earlier than researchers had believed. The woman belonged to the Gravettian culture, a Stone Age society known for hunting, portable art and small Venus figurines. Until now, scientists had thought that groups in eastern and western Europe may have lived mostly separately. The new evidence suggests that people moved across large distances during the last Ice Age and that southwestern France may have been an important meeting place. The cave where the bone was found had also been used by Neanderthals thousands of years earlier. Ancient DNA cannot tell us every detail of a person's life, but it can reveal family links and population movements that left no written records.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

History is often imagined as beginning with writing, but people were travelling, meeting and sharing ideas long before written records existed. This discovery challenges the idea that Stone Age communities were isolated. It also shows how new scientific evidence can change what we think we know about migration and human connections.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"What can ancient DNA tell us that written sources cannot?"

Source: Live Science

https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/human-evolution/30-000-year-old-bone-found-in-french-cave-reveals-vast-genetic-connections-between-people-of-eastern