

Neanderthal Thermoregulation: Old Ideas and New

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Neanderthals display a suite of anatomical, physiological, and cultural characteristics (Venn diagram) that enabled them to survive and thrive in their cold, glacial climates. This poster reviews some of these characteristics, as they interact with one another, with a particular focus on the characteristics that require further study. Additionally, this poster is a celebration of the monumental impact Dr. Erik Trinkaus has had on our understanding of Neanderthals and on the field of Anthropology as a whole.

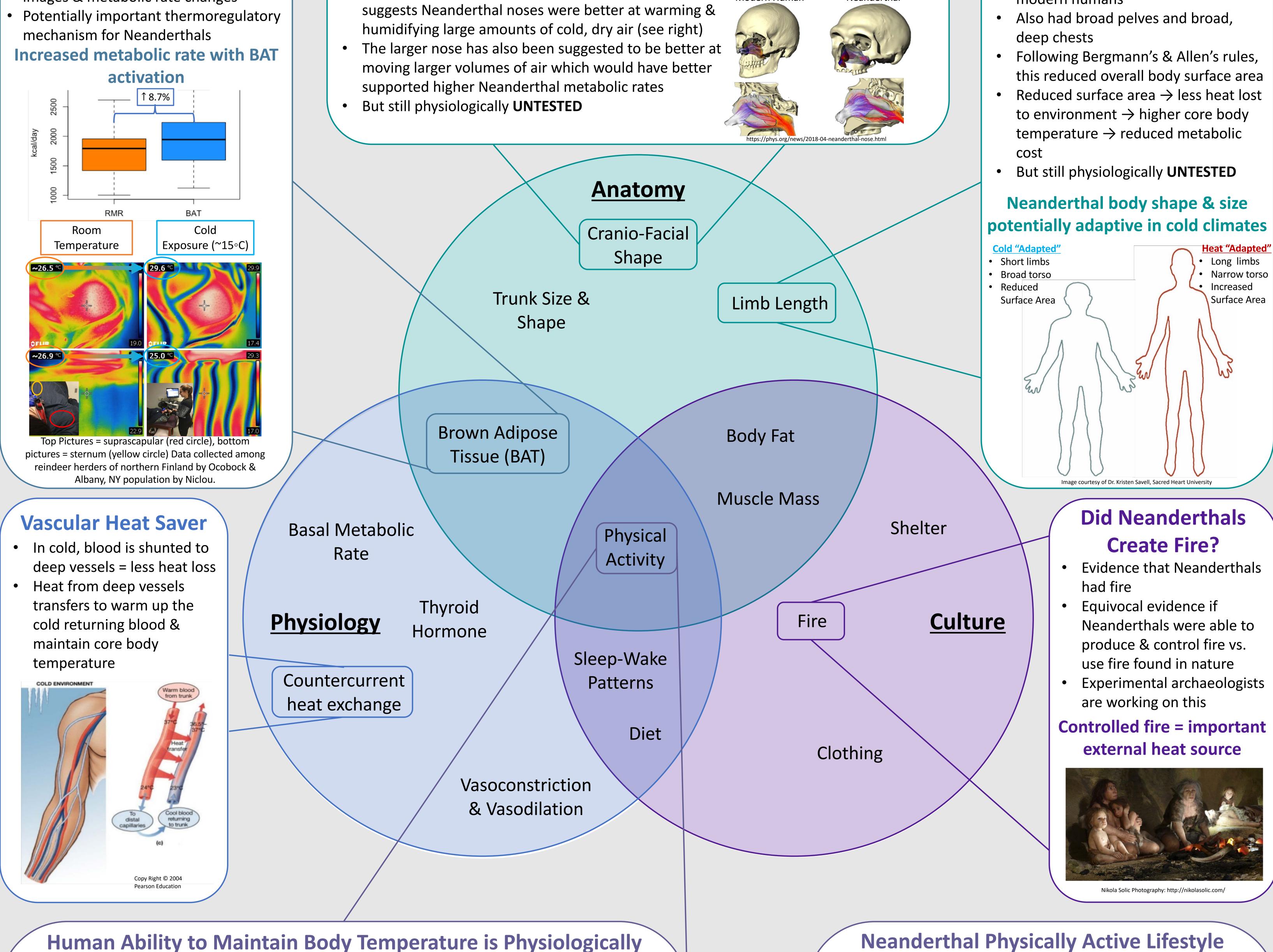
BAT as Cold Adaptation

- BAT produces heat during cold exposure
- Present & active in some adult humans at supraclavicular area
- In **cold**: BAT measured with thermal images & metabolic rate changes
- mechanism for Neanderthals

Neanderthal Nasal Morphology Impacts Air Conditioning and Energy Expenditure

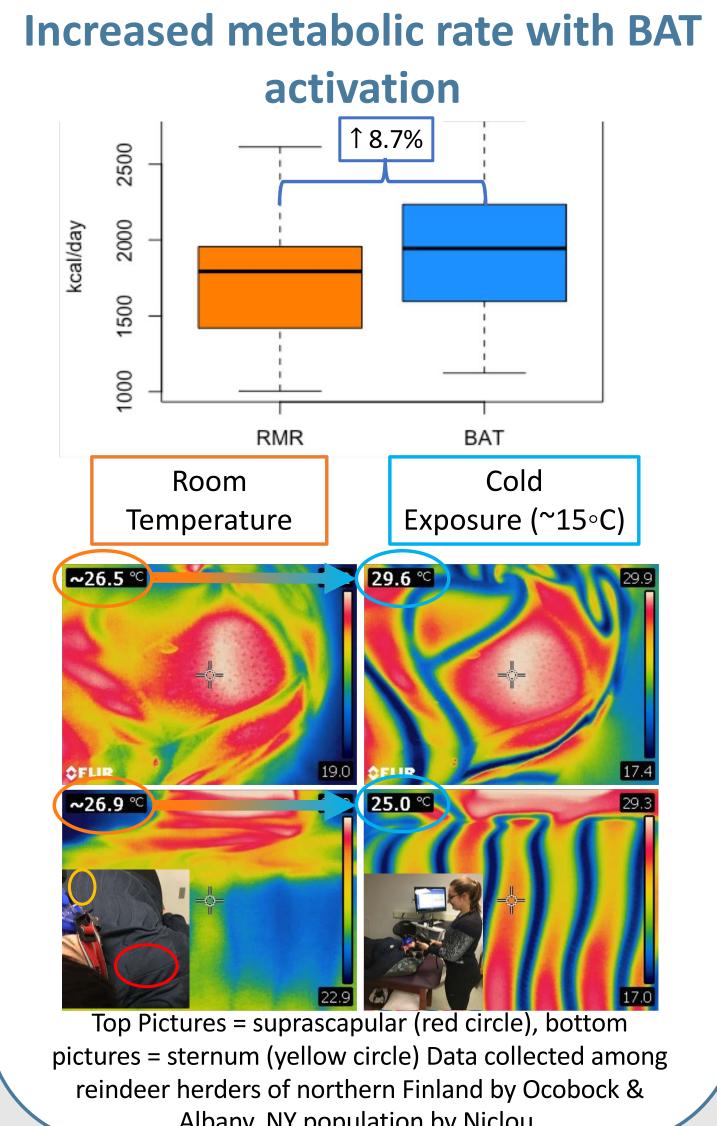
- It has been proposed that tall, broad noses were adaptive for cold climates
- The shape and large size relative to modern humans humidifying large amounts of cold, dry air (see right)

Neanderthals conditioned large volumes of inhaled air Modern Human Neanderthal



Allen & Bergmann Rules **Still Need Testing**

- Neanderthals had shorter limbs, particularly distal limbs, relative to modern humans



- **Evidence that Neanderthals**
- Experimental archaeologists

Controlled fire = important

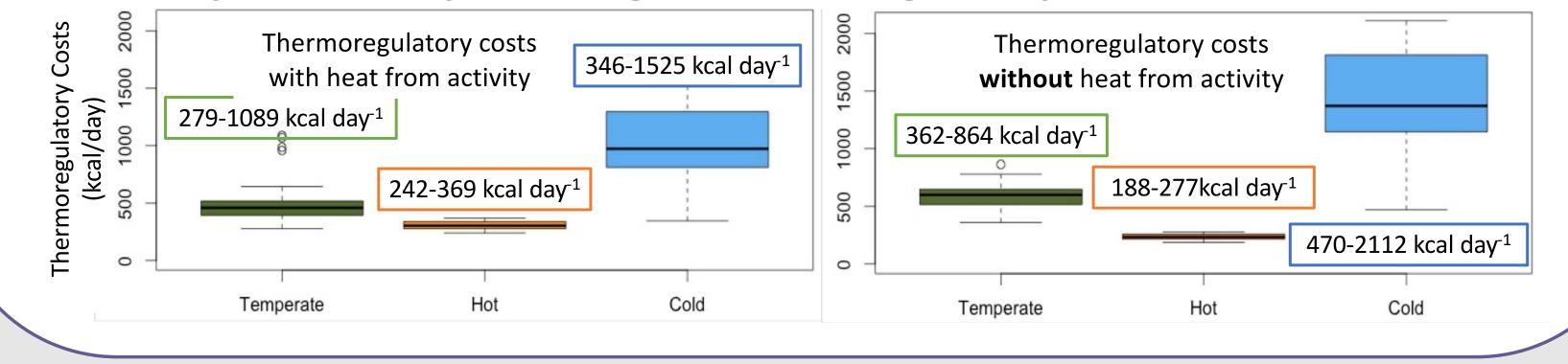
May Have Helped Keep Them Warm

Laboratory studies demonstrate that physical activity helps maintain core body temperature in cold water submersion

Limited - Physical Activity an Important Way to Stay Warm in Cold

- Energy expenditure & allocation assessed among National Outdoor Leadership School students taking part in highly rigorous physical activity in temperate, hot, & cold climates (Ocobock 2016).
- Physical activity decreased thermoregulatory costs in temperate & cold climates, but increased thermoregulatory costs in hot climates
- Suggests a critically important interaction between culturally driven physical activity and thermoregulatory demands in cold climates

Physical activity can mitigate thermoregulatory costs in cold climates



Suggested Neanderthals had inefficient locomotion compared to anatomically modern humans (AMH) due to shortened limbs (see limb length box above) This inefficient locomotion would have produced excess heat Estimate the thermoregulatory benefit of this inefficiency using the Allocation & Interaction Model (Ocobock 2016) Inefficient Neanderthal locomotion may have given thermoregulatory advantage Thermoregulatory Costs Assuming Thermoregulatory Costs Assuming **Equal** Locomotor Efficiency **Unequal** Locomotor Efficiency 1400 1400

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