

## NEANDERTAL STICK PUPPET SHOW

Neandertals, *Homo neanderthalensis*, lived in what is now Europe 200,000 to 29,000 years ago. The Neandertal body had many adaptations to the cold and dry climate of Ice Age Europe, such as thick bones and a short, stocky, muscular form. The Neandertal diet was based on hunting and gathering. For many years, Neandertals were wrongly portrayed as brutish and stupid. They shared some behavioral traits with modern humans, such as burial of the dead. They made different tools for different functions. Neandertals may have worn clothing similar to that pictured here.

Directions: Color and cut out the figures. Tape them to straws or sticks. Draw other puppets such as Neandertal children, or animals that the Neandertals hunted. Then create a stick puppet show. (Drawings by Kathleen Hamilton based on models in the Neanderthal Museum, Mettmann, Germany)

