

## **Chancelade**

**Specimen:** the skeletal remains of an adult male aged 55 – 65. A human skeleton with its arms folded on its breast region and the knees just touching the jaw was unearthed.

**Discoverer:** Archaeologists, Fewx and Hardy in the year 1888

**Site:** The discovery was made in a rock shelter near Chancelade in Dordogne, France.

**Time period** → Upper Palaeolithic age.

**Cultural materials:** - Typical implements of Magdalenian culture were associated with the Chancelade Man. Faunal evidences comprises of Greenland Seal and Reindeer. The posture of the skeleton recall the methods of burial of certain Peruvian mummies. A large number of primitive and modern people including the Eskimos practice this type of burial.

### **Physical features:**

The Important Features of **Chancelade** are mentioned below:

#### **A) Skull:**

1. The skull is long and narrow measuring 19.4 cm in length and 18.75 cm in breadth and thus showing a cranial index of 70.9 (dolichocephalic).
2. The cranial capacity is estimated at 1530 cc by Keith and 1710 by Testut.
3. The vault is high.
4. The supraorbital ridges are slightly marked.
5. The forehead is almost vertical.
6. The parietal tuberosities are well marked.
7. The mastoid processes are fully developed.
8. When looked at from the front a ridge-like elevation along the sagittal plane of the skull is noticed.
9. The face is very long and broad. Thus, the skull is said to be harmonic.
10. The face appears to be flat due to the prominence of strongly developed cheek-bones.
11. The orbits are large, high quadrilateral in shape.

12. The nose is leptorrhine.
13. No sub-nasal pragmatism is noticed.
14. The palate is narrow; the alveolar is elliptical in outline.
15. The lower jaw is strong but very narrow.
16. The ascending ramii are very broad.
17. The chin is prominent.

### **B) Teeth:**

Molars are powerful, they increase in size from the first to the third, a feature nearest in modern man.

### **C) Limbs:**

1. The skeleton materials suggest that the man was old and died between the ages of 55 and 65 years and that he was of short stature (about 5 feet 1 inch).
2. The limb bones are strong and massive, which indicate that the man had a strong muscular body.
3. The upper limbs are comparatively longer.
4. The femur is bent.
5. The tibia is platymetric.
6. The foot is large. It resembles that of Neanderthal man in the separation of the first metatarsal of the great toe from that of the second toe.

**Phylogenetic position:** - Both from the physical features and cultural traits it is thought to be that the Chancelade man has close resemblances with the modern Eskimos. This view is not supported by A. Keith and Hooton. According to some scholars with the retreat of ice sheet the Chancelade people crossed the Bering Strait and reached North America and they are the ancestor of the modern Eskimo and Mongoloids. Whatever may be the actual case, the Chancelade man is unanimously considered as belonging to Homo Sapiens.