

Neolithic grave relations

🕒 less than 1 minute read

An interesting story: (https://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/18/science/18obgrave.html?_r=1).

One of the graves contained a woman with three children, at least two of whom were not hers. The researchers suggest the woman might be their aunt or a stepmother. Another grave contained a family of four, according to the analysis making it the oldest molecular genetic evidence of a nuclear family ever obtained.

Normally a family doesn't die at the same time, Dr. Haak said. So that was one clue to what happened. Others were found in bones: fractured skulls, an arrowhead in a spine and signs of defensive injuries to arms and hands.

You might answer quite a lot of interesting questions if you could find first-order relatives in the archaeological record.

🏷️ Tags:

ancient DNA

Europe

Germany

graves

Neolithic

📅 Updated: November 17, 2008