

# Europe's first farmers were migrants

Analysis of ancient mitochondrial DNA suggests that Europe's first farmers were not the descendants of hunter-gatherer groups that settled after the retreat of the ice sheets but migrants who brought domestic plants and animals with them 7,500 years ago

**12,500 years ago:** Extent of ice sheet when Stone Age hunter-gatherers arrived in Europe



Human cell

**Nucleus:**

Chromosomes contain DNA inherited from both parents

Mitochondrion

Mitochondrion

**Mitochondrial DNA:** Ring-shaped mtDNA, found outside nucleus but still within cell, is inherited only from mother

**Researchers found mtDNA in bones of hunter-gatherers is radically different to early farmers, suggesting no direct genetic link**