

self-conscious reason. These are distinctively human gifts. From them come the desire and ability to know about ourselves, artistic awareness of beauty, the power of conceptual thinking, the capability to grasp the difference between right and wrong, and the knowledge of and the possibility of a relationship with the Creator.

While the unique qualities of humanness are difficult to measure in the fossil record, let us look at Neanderthal man, Cro-Magnon man, and civilized man and study the artifacts and signs they have left behind. Then we can reach our own conclusions about the point at which human beings began.

### NEANDERTHAL MAN

Our classic picture of Neanderthal man is that of the brutish cave man with a club, a kind of dimwitted creature who occupied Europe during the Ice Ages. He was indeed different from us, but not so different as his public image. He seems to have been the victim of a bad press.

FIGURE 11.1.

The guesswork involved in reconstructions based on Neanderthal skulls is illustrated in the sketch at left. The fleshy parts of the face could fit the structure of the skull in quite different ways.

