

NOVA's "Becoming Human" Part 1 - Viewing Questions

1. How old was the fossil "Selam" (found in Africa's Rift Valley)?

2. What species does this fossil belong to? (circle the correct answer)

Australopithecus Afarensis

Homo Sapiens

Homo Habilis

3. What did scientists look at on the "Selam" fossil to determine how old the child was when she died? _____

4. What is the name of the famous adult skeleton found that walked upright, but was ape-like from the waist up? _____

5. What does "bipedalism" mean? _____

6. What is one of the theories on why human species began to walk upright?

7. What do scientists compare to find out how long ago closely related species split from a common ancestor? _____

8. When did humans and chimpanzees last share a common ancestor? (circle the correct answer)

1-2 million years ago

8-10 million years ago

5-7 million years ago

9. What area of Africa was the older human ancestor skull found in?

East

or

West

Name: _____

Social Studies 7

Ms. Buckley

10. What did the surge of human ancestor species (all living around the same ~4 million years of time) have in common? (circle one)

- a. Chimp-like brain
- b. Walked on all fours
- c. Large capacity for knowledge

11. How do scientists (archaeologists) tell the difference between broken rocks and stone tools?

12. Beginning around 2 million years ago, new skulls appear signaling the era of which genus? _____

13. What is the name of the species also known as the "tool maker"?

14. What does Homo Habilis have that makes it different from australopithecus?

15. What idea came out of scientists studying layers of rock?

16. Scientists look at "cores" to see when the climate was wet or dry. Where are these "cores" from? _____