

Anthropology 12: Essay 3
Due April 17, 2011

Name _____

One of the newest members of the human evolutionary story is Ardi, or *Ardipithecus ramidus*, described in detail by Tim White of UC Berkeley and many others. The original papers, 11 in total, were published in the October 2, 2009 issue of *Science*. There was also a television show put out by the *Discovery Channel* and a website related to the find.

I want you to use the resources available to you – both using the SJSU online journal access for *Science* and the website from Discovery, to answer the paleoanthropologists questions about Ardi. That is: How old is it? Who is it? And What is it related to. More specifically:

- 1: Where and when did Ardi live?
 - a. Where was it found?
 - a. What was the environment at that locality at the time that Ardi lived?
 - i. What is the evidence for this?
 - b. How old is it? (When does it fall in time?)
 - a. What methods were used to date the locality?
 - b. How specific is the date?
2. Who is it?
 - a. What was found?
 - a. how complete is the find?
 - b. what's missing?
 - b. Who was it?
 - a. male or female?
 - b. age?
 - c. What can we learn about Ardi's adaptation from its anatomy?
For example, from her teeth, skull, arm bones, leg bones, feet or hips?
 - d. How did it live?
 - a. How did it move and get around?
 - b. What did it eat?
 - c. Can we infer anything about its social behavior from its anatomy or environment?
 - d. What was its ecological niche?
3. What is it related to?
 - a. Where does this species fall in the hominid evolutionary tree?
 - b. What do we learn about the course of human evolution from this specimen and this species?

4. What is the significance of *Ardipithecus* in human evolutionary studies?
What are the controversies regarding it?.

Use these questions as an outline for your essay on *Ardipithecus*. Please write around 3 pages, as usual. It will be graded ten points on content and five on writing. Remember to have an introduction and a concluding paragraph.

Some resources to help you include:

The Discovering Ardi Website:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/ardipithecus/ardipithecus.html>

The original *Science* magazine articles: Go to www.sjlibrary.org and click on SJSU articles and databases on the left. Choose Electronic Journal Indexes on the left. Search for Science. Choose the link: from 01/01/1997 to present in [Science Magazine](#). You will now have to sign in. Choose Science Journals from the menu, then Science, then Previous issues, and the October 2, 2009 issue will be listed. All the articles about Ardi are there including the Ann Gibbons Summary article.

Finally, a third that I will recommend is John Hawks' discussion of the importance of Ardi in *Seed*, at http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/uncovering_ardi/ .

These are only a start on what is out there. If you find anything else useful, please cite it.