



Article Guide: Paleoenvironment of Eden – What was the World of Early Human Ancestors Really Like?

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2018/09/05/paleoenvironment/>

Part 1:

Directions:

- Read the entire article “Paleoenvironment of Eden – What was the World of Early Human Ancestors Really Like?” to yourself
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Underline in the text where the focus questions are addressed
- Answer each focus question

Focus questions

1. Why is Eastern Africa so important to scientists like Dr. Su?

2. What kind of logistical challenges does Dr. Su and her research team face while working in the field?

3. What kind of environment did early humans live in?

Part 2:

Directions:

- Read each understanding question
 - Think about what you would need to know to answer that question
- Read the article a second time with a partner.
 - Answer each understanding question

Understanding questions

1. Identify two types of fossils which would be useful to reconstructing the paleoenvironment of hominids. Then explain what each fossil could tell you about the paleoenvironment.

2. Why would having a diverse diet of plants, seeds, fruits, insects, and meat be an evolutionary advantage? Why would this be particularly helpful to ancient humans?

Part 3:

Directions:

- Read the article a final time as a class.
- Discuss as a large group how you would address the extension question
 - Write a response to the extension question

Extension Question

Imagine you are graduate student working in the field for Dr. Su. Over the course of the field season, you find a several fossils, catalogued in the chart below.

<u>Fossil Type</u>	<u>Species</u>
Egg	Arboreal snake
Pollen	Ancient tree
Tooth	<i>A. afarensis</i>
Tail bone	Lemur

What kind of environment do you think do you think our ancestors lived in? How did they live and what could they have eaten? Support your claim with evidence from the chart and explain your reasoning.
