Paleoanthropology Review

Directions: Use the word bank on the back of this page to fill in the blanks for each question.

1) The closest living relative to humans is the ________ chimpanzee ________.
   We can determine this by comparing their ________ DNA ________, which is
   up to 98% identical to ours.

2) The closest ever relative to Homo sapiens is ________ Neanderthal ________.

3) “Lucy” is a member of the species, Australopithecus
   ________ afarensis ________.

4) The two main groups (genera) of hominids are
   ________ Homo ________ and ________ Australopithecus ________.

5) The ________ foramen magnum ________ is the point of the skull where
   it connects to the spine.

6) ________ Monkeys ________ are primates with tails. Those primates with
   larger brains and no tail are called ________ apes ________.
   Upright-walking human relatives that branched off after our common ancestor with
   chimps are called ________ hominids ________.

7) More recent hominid fossils can be found in ________ Europe ________ and ________ Asia ________, but the earliest
   hominids are known to have originated on the continent of ________ Africa ________, specifically near
   the ________ Great Rift Valley ________.

8) The ________ sagittal crest ________ is what the jaw muscles attach to, on top of the cranium.

9) “Lucy” was discovered in 1974 by ________ Don Johanson ________ in Hadar, Ethiopia.

10) The ________ Laetoli ________ footprints were discovered by Mary Leakey in 1978.
    These footprints are
    preserved in a layer of sedimentary rock, made of ________ volcanic ash ________.
    They give very strong evidence that A. afarensis was ________ bipedal ________.

11) One way to establish that a specimen was bipedal is to look at its ________ pelvis ________.
    If it is more
    elongated, then the species probably walked on all fours more like an ape, but if it is more compact, the
    species likely walked ________ upright ________.
12) __________ **Paleoanthropology** __________ is the study of ancient humans.

13) All primates have __________ *binocular* __________ vision, which allows them to see in 3D (depth perception).

14) A hominid skull with a low angled facial slope and a long, parallel, U-shaped dental arcade most likely also exhibits significant __________ *prognathism* __________.

15) Until recently, the __________ **Savannah** __________ Hypothesis was the predominant explanation offered for why human ancestors became bipedal. In this hypothesis, the early __________ *forest* __________ environment of Africa dried up and gradually gave way to more of a __________ *grassland* __________.

16) __________ *Opposable thumbs* __________ on both hands and feet allowed earlier apes (and most modern primates) to grab onto and climb tree branches with ease.

17) Walking upright allows us to use less __________ *energy* __________ when moving around, compared to apes.

18) __________ *Ardi* __________ is the nickname for *Ardipithecus ramidus*, a more primitive hominid species that existed over a million years before Lucy.

19) *Homo habilis* literally translates to “__________ *Handy* __________ man”, referring to the fact that this specimen is thought to have made and used stone __________ *tools* __________.

20) *Homo __________ sapiens* __________ is the name of our own species.

**Word Bank**

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