

WORLD HISTORY  
UNIT 1: PreCivilization  
Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma*  
Chapter 16.1-3

Please answer each of the following questions while reading the assigned chapter. A dictionary or [www.webster.com](http://www.webster.com) will be needed.

1. What is an omnivore? What is a dilemma? What is a chanterelle? How could it be dangerous to wrongly identify a chanterelle? Does this explain the Omnivore's Dilemma?
2. How does psychologist Paul Rozin say humans are like rats?
3. How are monarch butterflies different from humans and rats in the way that they eat?
4. Generalists, or omnivores, like us and rats are torn between neophobia and neophilia. What is the difference between the two?
5. Although we are omnivore's like rats, how is our food selection different?
6. The last paragraph of "Good to eat, good to think" describes the Omnivore's Dilemma. In your own words, what is this dilemma?
7. We are built for a wide ranging diet. How do each of the following allow this:
  - a. Our teeth
  - b. Our jaws
  - c. Our stomach
  - d. Our metabolism
8. What is a ruminant? How are ruminants and koala's diet's different from ours? What does this difference allow us to do that ruminants and koalas can't?
9. What does a great flexible diet require from us? Does this help explain the idea of dominion?

10. How is taste a useful tool to us in our dilemma? What do each of the following tell us about what we are about to eat?
  - a. The sweet tooth
  - b. Bitterness
  - c. Disgust
  
11. How do Opium sap from poppy seeds and willow bark fly in the face of the taste test further making the dilemma more stressful?
  
12. What did humans develop as a way to defeat plant defenses? When do anthropologists believe this "invention" took place?
  
13. How is the evolutionary process like an arms race?
  
14. What is a gourmand? How are we as gourmands different from every other species in the animal kingdom? How does culture help us with the stresses and anxieties of eating?
  
15. What is a cuisine? Give an example of a taboo food, eating ritual, table manners, or tradition that helps us decide what or how to eat.
  
16. Summarize what Jean-Jaques Rousseau the famous French libertine philosopher meant in the indented quote on p. 297.
  
17. Why does Aristotle say we need virtue to govern our appetites (both culinary and sexual)?
  
18. What do you think about Michael Pollan's description of the Omnivore's Dilemma? Does it explain the issue of Dominion over the rest of the Earth? What does it tell us about power? This will be a central idea to this course (power). Consider the idea of what gives one dominion or power and be prepared to discuss in class tomorrow.