Prehistory in the News

The popular press frequently reports on research about the prehistoric past. Based on your knowledge of what archaeologists study, find a substantial article (not just a couple of paragraphs) published within the last 18 months in a weekly or monthly magazine (e.g., Newsweek, National Geographic, etc.) or daily newspaper dealing with some aspect of prehistory. You may also use the Internet as a source for an article. Use one of the web search engines (Yahoo, Google, etc.) to find an appropriate web page (be careful—pages with misinformation are proliferating). The subject must deal with the prehistory from any part of the world (if you're unsure whether the selection you made is appropriate, let me review it!).

Based on the information contained in the article, write a 2-3 page double-spaced essay answering the questions posed below:

1. What region of the world and time period(s) are discussed in the article?

2. What problem(s) are the archaeologists trying to solve?

3. What are the findings or results of this research?

4. Most importantly, relate the article to similar subjects discussed in class or the text. (Do your homework on this question. I want a specific answer.)

At the top of the first page of your paper write the title, author and source of your article (if it is from the web then also list the URL address). Answer the questions in essay format. Do not use direct quotes from the article. Although I will not be marking grammar, spelling, etc., a poorly written paper will indicate sloppy work and result in a lower grade. Include a copy (only) if obtained from a magazine or a printout if from the web of the article you have chosen attached to your paper. Do not put your paper in a plastic folder, simply staple it in the upper left hand corner.

The exercise, which is worth 50 points, is due December 2nd. You are responsible for making a copy of your paper so that if the original is lost, the copy can then be turned in for grading. Late papers will receive a lower grade. Please note that the student code of conduct regarding plagiarism will be strictly enforced.