

Name: Kadynce Sanders Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Nina Jablonski

Please read this document carefully before you start! Your homework submission should be *at least* 250 words total, addressing the questions at the bottom of the page.

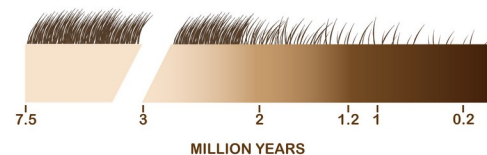


Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Nina Jablonski

Dr. Nina Jablonski is an anthropologist and paleobiologist that studies human evolution at Penn State University. She was born and raised on a farm in upstate New York, where she developed a passion for digging up fossils in a nearby creek. As a child she spent a lot of time watching National Geographic, which cultivated an interest in human evolution and led her to pursue a biology degree at Bryn Mawr College. Despite earning a degree in molecular biology and having pressure to attend medical school

from her parents, Dr. Jablonski developed a passion for evolution and anthropology and chose to pursue a PhD in biological anthropology at the University of Washington.

Dr. Jablonski research focuses on the evolution of primates and humans. One of her major research areas includes the evolution of human skin, pigmentation, and hair. Her research describes how skin color and hair can play a role in human self-identities, and the major role that these evolutionary processes play in history and society.



- 1) To learn more about the evolution of skin color, watch the following talk: [Nina Jablonski: Skin color is an illusion | TED Talk](#)
- 2) Browse through this journal article to appreciate the science of studying human skin color and race: [Skin color and race - Jablonski - - American Journal of Physical Anthropology - Wiley Online Library](#)

Instructions for Written Assignment:

After reviewing these resources, write a 250 word or more reflection with your responses TO BE SUBMITTED TO Blackboard, which addresses ideas related to the following questions:

- 1) **What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?**
 - a. **I found the fact of how little Darwin shared in his book all about evolution very interesting. You would initially think in a book called "On the Origin of Species" that he would speak about mostly origin and skin color. But as Dr. Jablonski mentioned, he only mentioned that Darwin spoke one line about skin color. The line not even holding much weight about the effects of skin color in relations to geographical location.**
- 2) **What did you learn from these resources about the evolution of skin color?**
 - a. **I learned that the array of skin colors pertains to the closeness to the equator. The effects of the different forms of UV allowed those closer to the equator to have natural protection to the UV forming the darker skin tone. When comparing the TOMS satellite image showing average UV radiation across the world, it equally compares to a map of skin color.**
- 3) **What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?**
 - a. **After reading all the resources, as well as knowing things about how scientists were in the past versus present, it tells me that scientists in the past were uneducated and presented information putting white people in a hierarchy without paying attention to the science and information presented in front of them. Scientists in the present day are more inclusive, and actually use the information they are presented with and share all information, for the most part whether that information be positive or negative.**
- 4) **What new questions do you have after learning about Dr. Jablonski's research and how human skin color evolved?**
 - a. **The only question I would have about Dr. Jablonski's research is how is she able to effectively find credible sources when the information she is speaking of is 1) very controversial 2) old information.**