

Name: _____

Date: _____

'Megabeasts'!

We've looked at minibeasts this week, but some of their relatives are not really that small... Meet the 'megabeasts', the largest minibeasts of them all! Learn all about them and see if you can label where they come from on a map of the world! Look up the countries to find out where they are, then label the minibeasts on the map!

Longest centipede

The Amazonian giant centipede from Brazil grows to 30cm long!

Largest scorpion

The Giant forest scorpion has huge pincers, is 23cm long and lives in Indian forests.

Biggest beetle

The Goliath beetle is named after its huge size! They are found in Kenya.

Heaviest insect

The weta is a huge cricket from New Zealand. They can weigh up to 70g!

Longest insect

A newly discovered stick insect species from China can grow up to 64cm long!

Biggest woodlouse

50cm long giant isopods are relatives of the woodlouse. They live in the sea, East of the USA.

Longest crab

The Japanese spider crab has huge long legs as long as a car! They live in the sea near Japan.

Largest wings

The atlas moth has a truly huge wingspan of 28cm. They live in Borneo.

Biggest spider

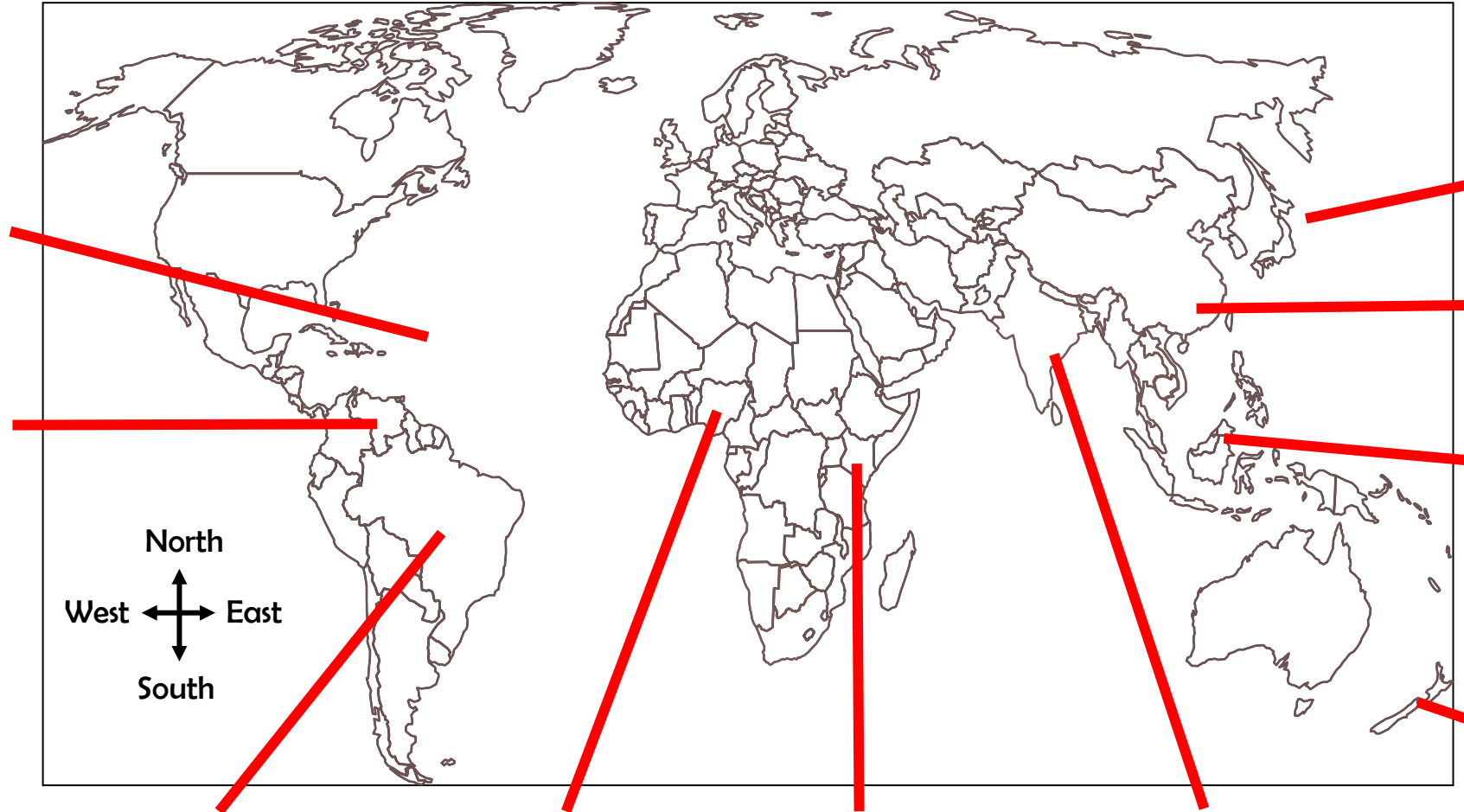
The goliath birdeating spider is a tarantula as big as a dinner plate from Venezuela.

Largest land snail

African giant land snails can be 40cm long! They live in Africa in countries like Nigeria.

'Megabeasts' of the world!

Label each megabeast to show the country they come from.



1) The Largest snail of all

The false trumpet snail lives in the sea. Its shell is 91cm long! This snail is collected by the aboriginal people in Northeast Australia. The snails live near the shore and are common there.

Put a cross on the map to represent where the false trumpet snail lives.

2) The longest worm

The Mekong giant earthworm can be an incredible 3m long! It lives on the banks of the Mekong river, which runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Colour in these countries on the map to represent where the earthworm lives.

3) The largest land invertebrate ever

None of the 'megabeasts' today are from Europe. But 330 million years ago, the largest land invertebrate ever lived in Scotland! *Arthropleura* was an enormous 2.5m long millipede! Land moves slowly and since then Scotland has moved from its original position near Africa, to where it is now. Then it was hot and covered in rainforest, today it is much colder and dryer.

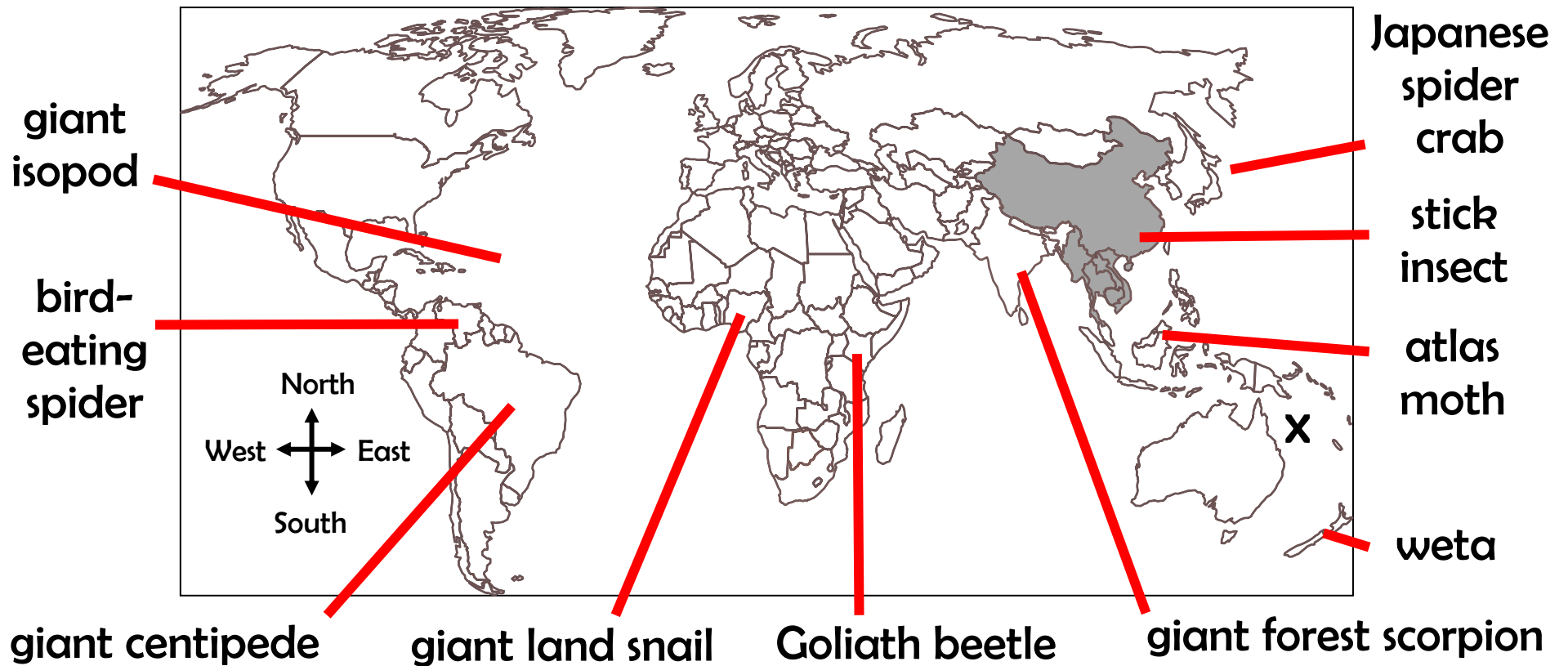
Based on this information, which of the following statements do you think might be true?

Minibeasts can grow larger in hot places like Africa, than they can in cold places like Europe.

Scotland has never been a suitable environment for minibeasts.

Arthropleura is still alive in Africa.

'Megabeasts' Answers



- 1) See the x marking the false trumpetsnail.
- 2) See countries shaded this colour for the worm's home
- 3) The 1st statement is probably true. In cold places, there's less food than in the lush tropical forests nearer the 'equator' (the line halfway between the north and south pole, where it is warmer) and the growing seasons of plants are much shorter, so minibeasts live fast, short lives and can rarely evolve to be as large as in hot places. 330 million years ago, Scotland was much like parts of Africa today. Most 'megabeasts' today live in hot countries, but none are as big as Arthropleura. The reason Arthropleura could grow so large is that there was more oxygen in the air back then. Most invertebrates do not have lungs, so need lots of oxygen to breathe. Bigger animals need more oxygen to survive. The high oxygen levels and tropical climate allowed the Arthropleura to grow to be absolutely huge! The 2nd and 3rd statements are false.