

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unusual Animals: Giant Coconut Crab



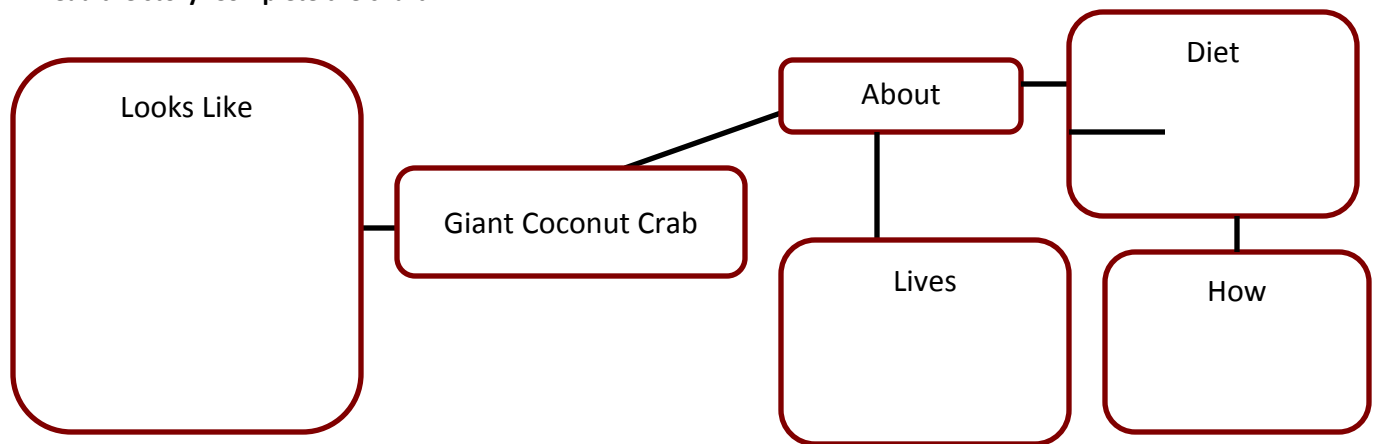
Take a look at the picture! That is not an alien. It's not a monster either. That is the giant coconut crab of Indonesia! It is an arthropod, like an ant, butterfly or grasshopper. The coconut crab is the largest arthropod in the world. It has a body that is over 1 foot (30 cm) long, and its legs can grow over 3 feet long (91 cm). A full sized crab can be over 4 feet (1 m) long!

Unlike some crabs, the giant coconut crab does not live in the ocean. In fact, the coconut crab can't swim at all! It will drown in water, unlike the blue crab or king crab. Even though the coconut crab can't swim, a little water can help the crab breathe more easily. People will often see them looking for coconuts after a rainstorm.

The giant coconut crab is good at climbing. And it likes to eat coconuts! The coconut crab can climb up coconut trees. It will drop a coconut out of the tree to smash it open. The coconut crab can also use its big claws to hammer coconuts open. The coconut crab also likes to eat other fruits, nuts and seeds that grow on the Indonesian island. It may look scary, but don't be afraid. The coconut crab may be scared of you! In Indonesia people catch and eat the coconut crabs. Indonesians consider coconut crab meat a delicacy.

A. What is a coconut crab? What is it like? _____

B. Read the story. Complete the chart.



C. Would you like to eat a giant coconut crab? Why or why not? Write your answer. Then tell your partner.