



Megabeasts

During this project, you will use your mathematical skills to create a three dimensional scale model of an ancient insect.

News Report from Wacky World Weekly Report

Scientists working at Jurassic Park have recently conducted experiments with DNA extracted from insects that have been fossilized in amber, or the sap of ancient pine trees. The data from their experiments has shown that the size of the insects has decreased over time. They concluded the insects found around the world today are approximately one-tenth the size of their ancient relatives. Further investigations are planned to investigate the “Mystery of the Megabeasts”.

Part A: Obtain a preserved specimen of an insect or detailed photograph. Use the space below to draw a diagram of your insect. Label the diagram with as much information as possible, such as overall length, width, girth, wingspan, and details of the parts found on your insect.

Part B: Determine the scale you will use for your model, then convert your actual measurements in Part A to the scale measurements for your model. Use the space on the back of this page to record your calculations and note the new measurements on your diagram in Part A.

Part C: Create a 3-D “megabeast” model of your insect using materials of your choice. Your model should be as realistic as possible and be created to hang from a ceiling hook.