**Giant African Millipede**

**Native to:** Native to Central African lowland forests

**Predators:** frogs, snakes, birds, small mammals

**Prey:** Detritivores- eat decaying plant matter to break down the dead materials and restore the nutrients back to the soil so other plants can use them.

**Facts:**

* Millipede means thousands of legs, however this one probably has approximately 400
* They are born with about 6 legs, and each time they molt they grow 2 new sets
* Lifespan of 5-7 years
* Will grow to be approximately 12 inches long
* Feed on detritus- decaying plant and animal matter found on or near the forest floor

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Rolling into a ball (like a potato bug) to protect their softer underbelly
* Exoskeleton
* Secretion of yellow toxic liquid which smells and tastes bad to other animals. The toxin can make parts of your mouth and nose go numb

**Handling Tips:**

This animal is \_\_ years old. Millipedes are very slow moving, and docile animals. It will curl up into a ball when disturbed, but over time will relax and begin to crawl around. If it produces poison on your hand, be sure to wash them after you have finished handling the millipede. The toxin may be yellow or purple in color, and you may have a varying degree of allergic reaction, but at worst it will itch.