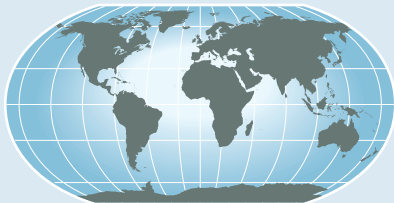


Next supercontinent could wipe out humans

Computer simulations suggest that the future formation of a supercontinent on Earth, dubbed Pangea Ultima, could boost warming and push humans and other mammals to extinction

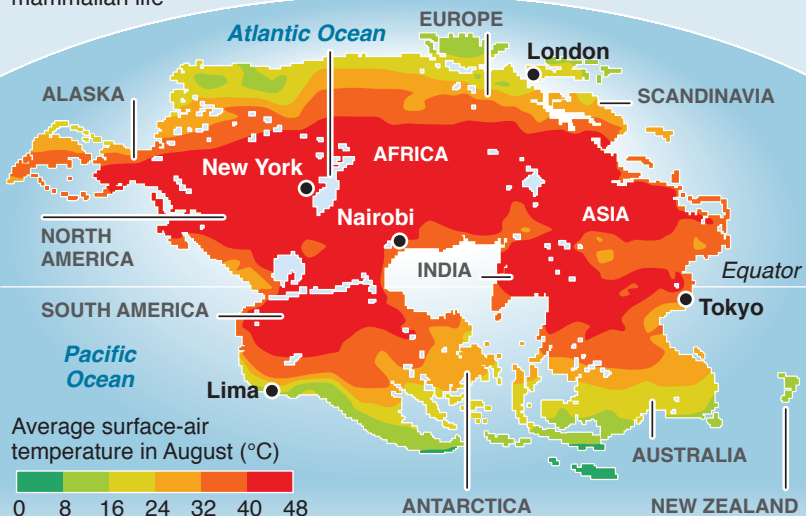
EARTH'S GEOGRAPHY: Today



In 250 million years (projected)



EXTREME HEAT: Much of Pangea Ultima would be uninhabitable to most mammalian life



Volcanoes

As continents merge and drift apart, tectonic activity will release huge amounts of planet-warming carbon dioxide (CO₂) into atmosphere



Dryness

In continental interiors, lack of moisture would diminish amount of silica washed into oceans, which usually removes CO₂ from atmosphere



Solar energy

Ageing sun is predicted to be about 2.5% more luminous at time of Pangea Ultima's formation, further contributing to global warming