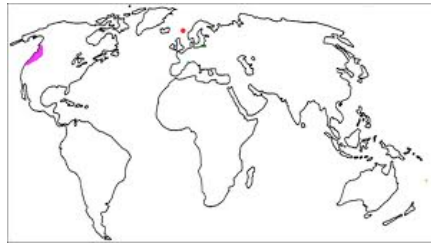




Alfred Wegener and Continental Drift

Look at the map to the right. Do you see any continents that look like they might fit together like a puzzle? Did you choose South America and Africa?



A German meteorologist and geologist named Alfred Wegener did. Many scientists before him thought the continents looked like puzzle pieces but no one knew how to investigate their observations. One day Dr. Wegener was reading a scientific article about fossils in Brazil and Africa. The article said that there were fossils of the same extinct plants and animals found in both places. Dr. Wegener also found out that both continents had the same layers of rock!

This evidence gave Alfred Wegener the idea of Continental Drift. This theory proposed that the continents moved through the ocean floor and that at one time all the continents had been one big supercontinent. He published a book that explained his theory and many scientists thought he was wrong and didn't believe his evidence. We will learn in the next lesson how he was proven correct.

Watch the power Point, "Alfred Wegener Investigates Continental Drift" and answer the following questions:

1. What did Wegener observe? _____
2. What evidence did Wegener find? _____
3. What did Wegener infer? _____
4. What is the name of the supercontinent? _____






Materials: Colored pencils, scissors, World Map, Continents sheet, Continent Outline sheet



What To Do:

1. Look at the World Map and the Continents Sheet
2. Label the Continents Sheet with their current names.
3. Color the fossils areas to match the legend below.
4. Cut out each of the continents along the edge of the continental shelf (the outermost dark line).
5. Try to logically piece the continents together so that they form a giant supercontinent.
6. When you think you have a good fit let your teacher check your work.
7. Your teacher will then give you the Continent Outline Sheet and you can see if your evidence is the same as Wegener's.
8. Glue your continents onto the outline sheet and cut out the outline. Glue this on the next page of your notebook.

Fossil Legend

	Fossils of these plants are found in Europe and other areas. Color the areas with these fossils yellow.
	Fossils of the fern Glossopteris have been found in these locations. Color the areas with these fossils green.
	Fossils of a half-meter long fresh water reptile that lived in coastal bays have been found in these locations. Color the areas with these fossils blue.
	Fossil remains of Cynognathus, a land reptile approximately 3 meters long lived in these areas. Color the areas with these fossils orange.
	Fossils of a land-dwelling reptile named Lystrosaurus were found in these areas. Color them brown.



Name _____ period _____

EXIT TICKET

Alfred Wegener and Continental Drift

1. Who proposed the theory of Continental Drift?

- A. Leonardo Da Vinci
- B. Alfred Wegener
- C. Isaac Newton
- D. Galileo

2. Which of the following was NOT evidence that is used to propose the theory of Continental Drift?

- A. Similar fossils in Brazil and Africa
- B. Similar rock layers in Brazil and Africa
- C. Tropical fossils found at the North Pole
- D. Icebergs found in Africa

3. What is the name for the supercontinent?

- A. Pangaea
- B. Southern Africa
- C. Northern China
- D. Eurasia

4. What type of organisms can be turned into fossils?

- A. Only plants
- B. Only animals
- C. Both plants and animals
- D. Neither plants nor animals



Name _____ period _____

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