

C'mon Rex you can do it, jump boy ...jump ...hurry Rex hurry!

Continental Drift

Continental Drift

Have you ever wondered if our continents were at one time all connected?



This has been a question debated for years.

Continental Drift

Dutch mapmaker Abraham Ortelius noted the fit between the coastlines of South America and Africa more than 400 years ago.



Continental Drift

German meteorologist Alfred Wegener thought that the fit of the continents wasn't just a coincidence.



Continental Drift

Wegener suggested that all the continents were joined together as one large supercontinent at some point in the past.

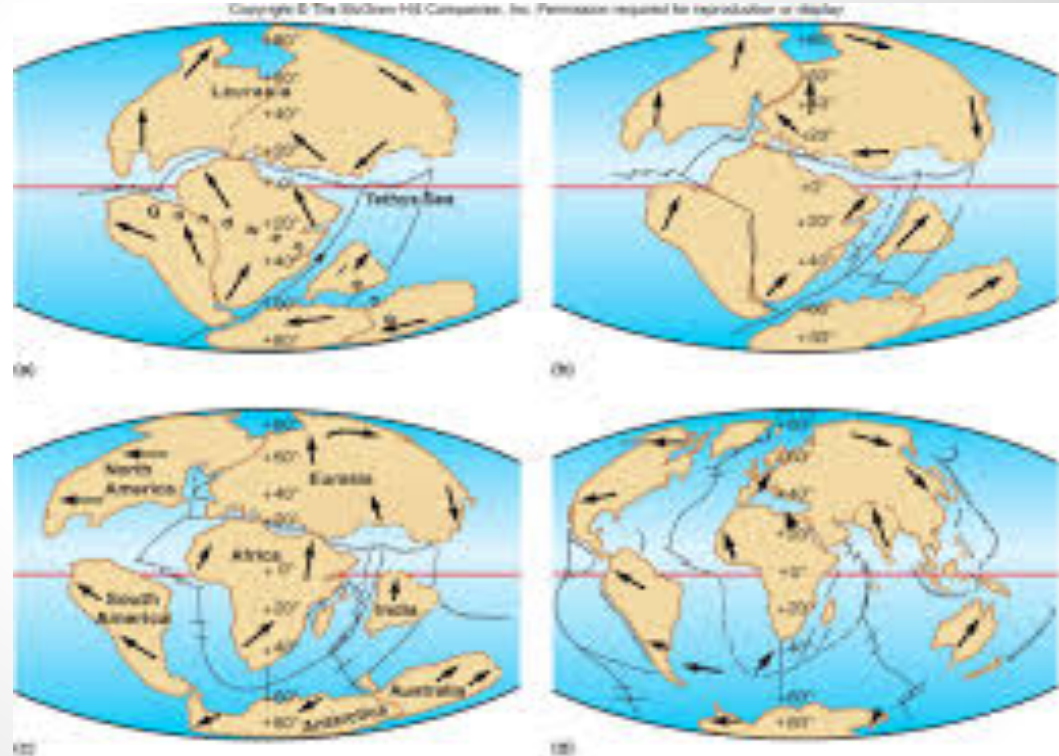


Pangea—250 million years ago

Continental Drift

During a lecture in 1912, Wegener proposed the hypothesis of continental drift.

Continents have moved slowly over time to their current locations.



Check Point

Who proposed continental drift?

Why do you think Wegener's hypothesis about continental drift was controversial.

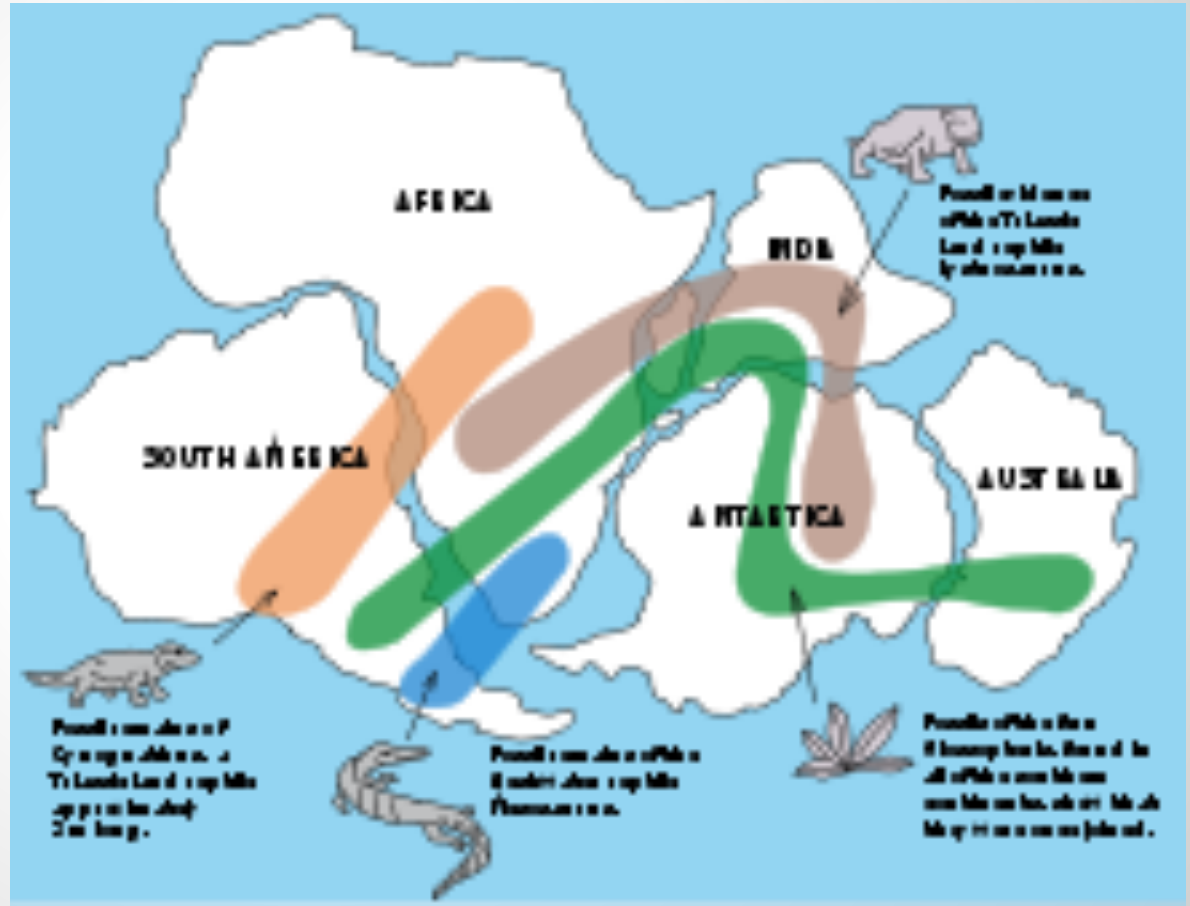
- Was unable to explain exactly how the continents moved.
- Lack of evidence
- Resistance from science community

Many years after Wegener's death other important observations eventually supported Wegener's hypothesis.

Evidence to support Continental Drift

Fossil Clues:

- Mesosaurus
- Labyrinthodont
- Kannemeyrid
- Glossopteris



Evidence to support Continental Drift

Climate Clues:

- Fossils of warm weather plants found in Arctic regions.
- Glacier evidence found in tropical areas.
 - Glacial deposits and rock surfaces scoured and polished by glaciers are found in South America, Africa, India, and Australia.

Evidence to support Continental Drift

Rock Clues:

- Similar rock structures are found on different continents.
- Parts of the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern United States are similar to those found in Greenland and western Europe.



Check Point

What evidence supports Wegener's hypothesis for continental drift?

Johnny tells Alex that he believes all of Earth's continents were connected at one time. Do you agree or disagree with Johnny? Explain your reasoning.

