

PANGAEA

Scientists now believe that about 250 million years ago, a supercontinent known as Pangea existed. This supercontinent was made up of all the major continents; Eurasia, North America, South America, Africa, Antarctica, Australia and India. Scientist believe that plate tectonics, or the movement of land, are the reason for the separation of the continents as we know them today.

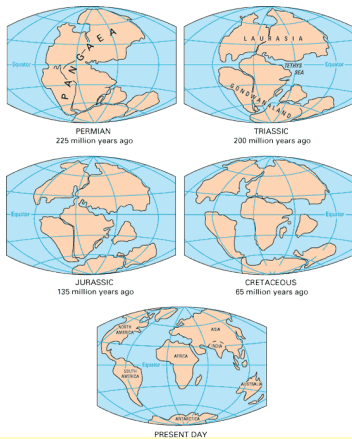
Important People

Alfred Wegener: In 1915, the German geologist and meteorologist Alfred Wegener first proposed the theory of continental drift, which states that parts of the Earth's crust slowly drift atop a liquid core. The fossil record supports and gives credence to the theories of continental drift and plate tectonics.

Edward Suess: Edward Suess was an Austrian geologist who first realized that there had once been a land bridge between South America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica. He found the same type of fossils in opposite parts of the world. This meant that at one point the different areas had to be close enough together that the same specimens would fossilize there.

Plate Tectonics

Scientists believe that plate tectonics are the reason for the continental shift that has occurred over time.



Questions

1. Who was the geologist that first proposed the theory of continental drift?

Alfred Wegener

2. What is the reason for continental drift?

plate tectonics

3. Who was the geologist that discovered the same fossils in different parts of the world?

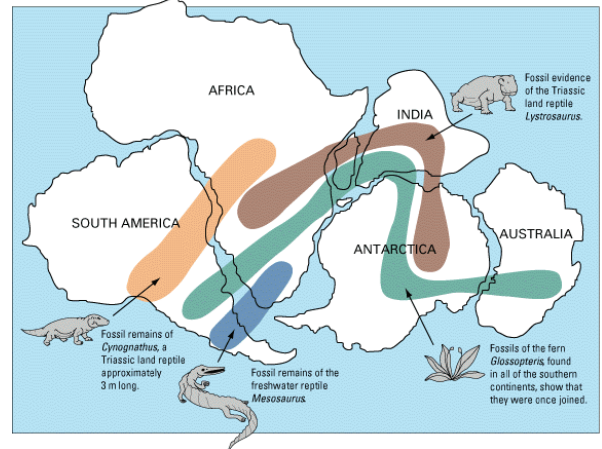
Edward Suess

4. Why was the discovery of different fossils so significant?

Helps support idea of Pangea

Fossils

The discovery of similar fossils on different continents helped to develop the idea of Pangea.



Continents

Label each continent that Pangea was made up of.

