

Continental Drift Evidence

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will use a cut-and-fit model to evaluate evidence for continental drift.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- printed or hand-traced world map (or draw continent outlines freehand)
- scissors
- colored pencils
- paper
- tape

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Trace or print outlines of South America, Africa, North America, Europe, and Antarctica, then cut each continent out along its coastline.
2. Try fitting the continents together like puzzle pieces (especially South America's east coast against Africa's west coast) on a blank sheet of paper.
3. Tape the fitted continents down in their 'Pangaea' arrangement once you find the best fit.
4. On the same paper, write and draw small symbols marking at least 2 pieces of extra evidence for continental drift (matching fossils like Mesosaurus found on both South America and Africa, or matching rock/mountain ranges) at the correct spots on your map.

QUESTIONS

1. Which two continents fit together most closely like puzzle pieces?
-

2. Name one type of fossil evidence that supports continental drift and explain why it's convincing.
-

3. Besides fossils, what is one other type of evidence for continental drift?
-

4. What is the name of the supercontinent that Pangaea's pieces are believed to have once formed?
