









Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Continent Puzzle

## Student Worksheet



**Directions:** Glue the continents below, showing the best possible fit.

# Alfred Wegener's Puzzle

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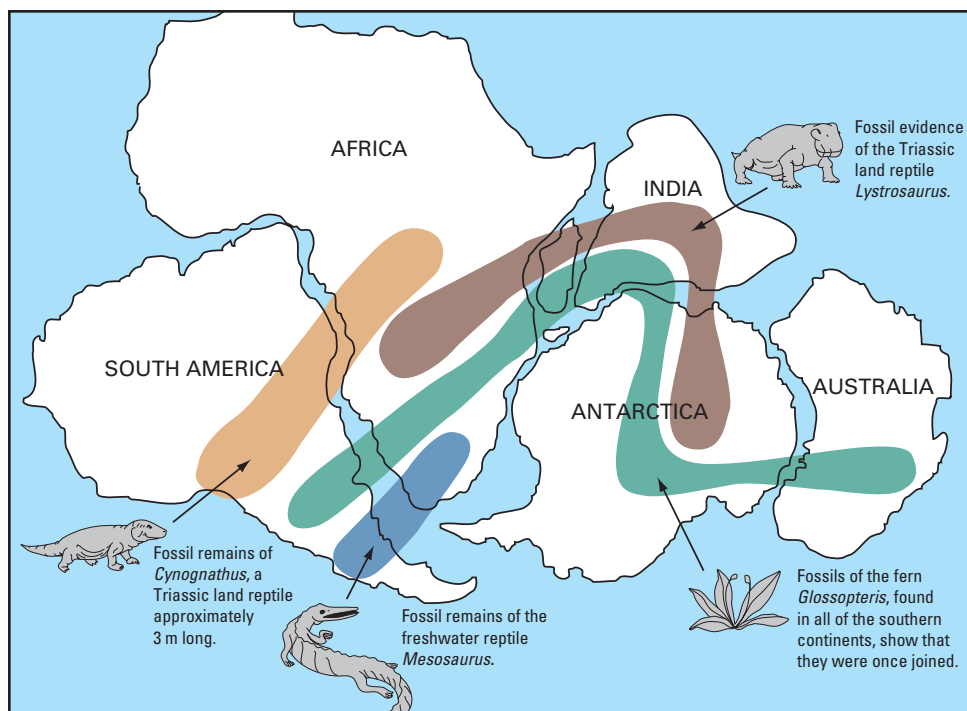
## Student Information Sheet



Grades  
3-4

In 1910 a German scientist named Alfred Wegener wrote to his future wife: “Doesn’t the east coast of South America fit exactly against the west coast of Africa, as if they had once been joined?”

Alfred Wegener was curious. He wanted to know more about Earth. He looked at the shapes of continents and the locations of fossils to understand how continents were once connected. The picture below shows where fossils of three different reptiles and one type of plant (fern) are found on different continents. When they are connected, they form a supercontinent. Alfred Wegener named this large continent “Pangaea.” Pangaea means “all lands” in Greek. Over time, Pangaea split apart. Continents moved away from each other as the oceans between them grew wider. He called his theory, or idea, “Continental Drift.”



U.S. Geological Survey image

Alfred Wegener’s theory of continental drift was very new and different from the ideas of other scientists. Even though he made a lot of observations that supported his idea, it was hard for other scientists to understand his theory at first. Much of what we know about Earth today grew out of Alfred Wegener’s theory of Continental Drift.

