

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading A

Section: Restless Continents

WEGENER'S CONTINENTAL DRIFT HYPOTHESIS

- _____ 1. What hypothesis by Alfred Wegener explains why continents seem to fit together?
- a. continental spreading
 - b. plate tectonics
 - c. Wegener's puzzle
 - d. continental drift
- _____ 2. According to Wegener, how many landmasses did all continents once form?
- a. one
 - b. six
 - c. seven
 - d. ten
- _____ 3. What did Wegener hypothesize happened to the continents?
- a. They broke up and re-formed.
 - b. They drifted together to form a single continent.
 - c. They broke up and drifted to their current locations.
 - d. They sank into the ocean.

4. Does fossil evidence support Wegener's theory? Explain.

5. List three kinds of evidence found on both sides of the ocean that support Wegener's theory.

THE BREAKUP OF PANGAEA

6. Wegener thought that all of the present continents were once joined 245 million years ago in a landmass he called _____.
7. The single landmass split into two huge continents he called Gondwana and _____, about 180 million years ago.
8. When those two continents split 65 million years ago, what were formed?

Directed Reading A *continued*

SEA-FLOOR SPREADING

9. Why did many scientists reject Wegener's hypothesis?

10. In the process of sea-floor spreading, what happens when magma rises to Earth's surface and solidifies?

Match the correct definition with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

_____ 11. process of forming new oceanic lithosphere as magma rises to the surface

_____ 12. areas where sea-floor spreading takes place

_____ 13. process that happens when Earth's magnetic poles change place

_____ 14. theory that explains how continents reached their current locations

15. Rock on the ocean floor provided the final proof of sea-floor spreading with a record of _____.

- a. continental drift
- b. mid-ocean ridges
- c. sea-floor spreading
- d. magnetic reversal