

# DR 7-2

## 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 your answer.

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

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### 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?

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### SEA-FLOOR SPREADING

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

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

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

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| _____ 11. process of forming new oceanic lithosphere as magma rises to the surface | a. continental drift   |
| _____ 12. areas where sea-floor spreading takes place                              | b. mid-ocean ridges    |
| _____ 13. process that happens when Earth's magnetic poles change place            | c. sea-floor spreading |
| _____ 14. theory that explains how continents reached their current locations      | d. magnetic reversal   |

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