

Drifting Continents – Chapter 1, Section 1.3

1. What is the theory of **continental** drift?
 - About 300 million years ago, **all** of the continents had been joined together in a **single** landmass. This giant landmass was called **Pangaea**.
 - Over millions of years, PANGAEA **drifted** apart and moved **all** over the Earth's surface.
2. What scientist came up with this theory?
 - A German **meteorologist** Alfred Wegener.
3. What major evidence did Wegener use to prove his theory?
 - **land features**
 - **fossil**
 - **climate**
4. Evidence from **land features**.
 - South **America** seems to fit into Africa.
 - A **mountain** range in South America lines up with a mountain range in **Africa**.
 - Rocks are the same type and age.
5. Evidence from **fossils**
 - Fern **fossils** have been found in rocks in **Africa**, South America, Australia, **India**, and **Antarctica**.
 - **Seeds** were too large to be carried by **water or wind**, so how were they dispersed? The continents were probably **joined** together.
 - **Animal (reptile)** fossils were also found on widely separated continents. Animals could not **swim or fly** across the oceans, so continents were probably joined together.
6. Evidence from **climate**
 - An island in the Arctic Ocean is **ice** covered and has a harsh polar climate, VERY COLD! Fossils of **tropical** plants are found there.
 - How? 300 million years ago the island must have had a mild **tropical** climate. The island was probably close to the **equator**.
 - South African rocks have deep **scratches** formed from **glaciers**. Now the climate is **mild**.
 - **South Africa** was probably located closer to the **South** pole.
7. THE EARTH'S **climate** did not change, the position of the continents changed!