



Name:

Class:

Student worksheet

6.1 Is the Earth shrinking or moving?

Pages 116–117 and 214

Continental drift



- 1 What are 2 theories about plate tectonics? Explain these theories.

- 2 What did Alfred Wegener contribute to plate tectonics?

- 3 What did Wegener notice about the world that led to his theory?

- 4 Cut and paste the continents on the last page of this worksheet onto the space below, fitting them together in the way suggested by Wegener.



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5 What is the name of the supercontinent that you have created? How long ago did it exist?

6 Draw on the squiggly line shown in the textbook. What does the line that runs through these continents represent?

7 What are tectonic plates?

8 What does the movement of plates result in?

9 What is sea-floor spreading and what causes it?

Extend your understanding

An analogy can be used to describe the structure of the Earth. This analogy is that the Earth is like surfboards floating on the ocean, where there are so many surfboards that you can't see the water anymore.

10 What do the surfboards represent in this analogy?



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11 What does the ocean represent?

12 What would happen to the surfboards if there was a wave in the ocean?

13 Explain how this relates to the movement of tectonic plates.

14 What are the flaws that you can see in this analogy?



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