

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 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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**Directed Reading A *continued***

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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.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **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