

Continental Drift

Name:

Date:

INQUIRY

The same *Lystrosaurus* fossils have been found in China, India, and Antarctica. How is this possible?

Discuss with your partner. Write your initial ideas below:

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Continental drift	The idea that continents move slowly across Earth's surface.
Pangaea	The supercontinent that existed ~335–200 million years ago.
Fossil evidence	Matching fossils on different continents suggest they were once joined.
Sea-floor spreading	New ocean floor created at mid-ocean ridges.

Part A — Knowledge

1. Who proposed the theory of continental drift, and when? What country was he from? [2 marks]
2. What was Pangaea? Approximately when did it begin to break apart? [2 marks]
3. List four types of evidence that support continental drift. [4 marks]

Part B — Application

4. Coal forms in tropical swamp environments. Scientists have found coal deposits in Antarctica. Explain what this tells us about Antarctica's position millions of years ago. [3 marks]
5. Wegener was rejected by the scientific community during his lifetime. What does this tell us about how science works? [3 marks]
6. The Atlantic Ocean is widening by approximately 2.5 cm per year. Calculate how many years ago Nanjing and Berlin would have been 100 km closer. [3 marks]

Show your working:

Part C — Inquiry Extension

7. Predict: in 50 million years, what might the world map look like? Africa is moving north toward Europe. Australia is moving north toward Asia. Draw a sketch and explain. [4 marks]