

# Plate Tectonics

## SECTION 17.1 Drifting Continents

In your textbook, read about continental drift.

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each statement.

- Early mapmakers thought continents might have moved based on their observations of
  - Gondwanaland.
  - rock and fossil evidence.
  - matching coastlines.
  - earthquakes and floods.
- Pangaea was an ancient supercontinent made up of
  - South Africa, India, Australia, and South America.
  - the United States, Greenland, and Europe.
  - Antarctica, India, and South America.
  - all of Earth's continents.
- To support his hypothesis of continental drift, Alfred Wegener did NOT use
  - ancient climatic evidence.
  - magnetic field data.
  - data on ancient reptiles and ferns.
  - evidence from rock formations.
- Fossil evidence that supported Wegener's idea of continental drift included
  - land-dwelling animals.
  - ocean plants.
  - ocean mammals.
  - tropical flowers.
- Fossils of aquatic reptiles found in freshwater rocks suggested to Wegener that these reptiles
  - swam the great distances between continents.
  - probably did not cross the oceans.
  - ate *Glossopteris*.
  - once lived in Earth's oceans.
- Based on observations of fossils of *Glossopteris*, Wegener concluded that
  - magnetic reversals had occurred in Earth's past.
  - continental rocks containing these fossils had once been joined.
  - Earth's continents were never joined.
  - Glossopteris* grew only in the tropics.
- Coal beds in Antarctica indicated to Wegener that this continent was
  - always cold.
  - inhabited by penguins.
  - once located closer to the equator.
  - once beneath the ocean.
- Based on the glacial deposits he observed, Wegener argued that
  - glaciers form near the equator.
  - Earth's axis of rotation had changed in the past.
  - landmasses drifted away from the south pole.
  - Glossopteris* could not survive hot weather.
- Most scientists at the time rejected Wegener's hypothesis of continental drift because he
  - had collected little evidence to support his hypothesis.
  - would not state his hypothesis publicly.
  - insisted that Earth's axis of rotation had changed.
  - couldn't explain how or why the continents moved.