



What is Pangaea?

A quick look at
the super-continent!

What do YOU know??

(Students, tell me now!) 😊

Set Up Your Note Sheet:

What is Pangaea?

Who?

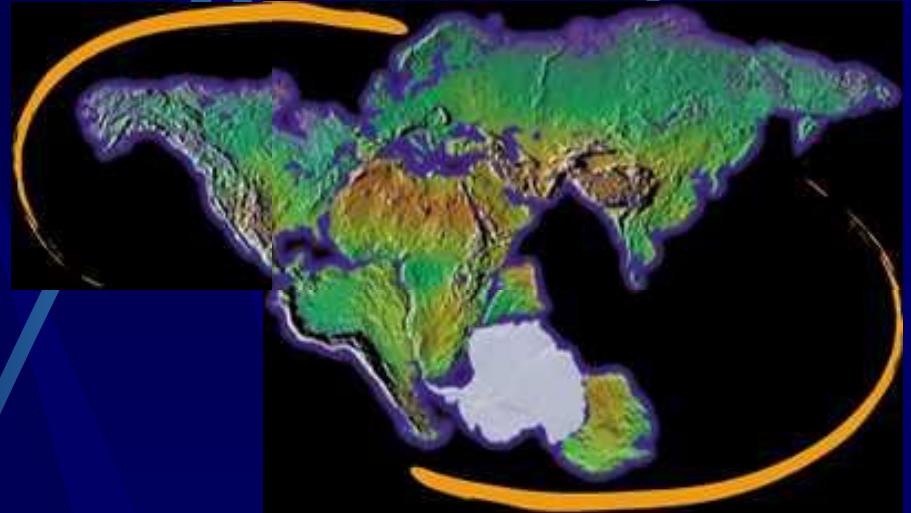
What?

How do we know?

What happened?

Pangaea

- **WHO?** *Alfred Wegener* (1880-1930) first proposed the theory of **Continental Drift**, which states that the Earth's **continents** float on a more dense layer of rock
- **WHAT?** He hypothesized that there was an original, **gigantic super-continent 300 million years ago**, which he named **Pangaea** (greek for “all earth/land”).



WHAT are the names of the land pieces?

- Eur-Asia
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- India
- Australia
- Antarctica

**How do we KNOW Pangaea existed?
(Anyone?)**

HOW DO WE KNOW? Scientific Evidence!

- Fossil Evidence –

- There are similar fossil remains found on more than one continent.
- organisms that couldn't live in certain present-day areas have had their fossils found there!

More Scientific Evidence

Land Features

- Mountain Ranges line up on different continents.
- European coal fields match up with North American coal fields.
- The shapes of the landmasses fit together when joined

Climate

- Scratches in rocks show that glaciers covered Africa....so it must have been closer to the poles.
- Cold Arctic Islands have fossils from warm climate animals...so it must have been near the equator.

Is Continental Drift REAL?

- Pangaea IS, but Continental Drift is NOT!
- Scientists do not accept Wegener's Theory (continents do NOT float on more dense rock!).
- BUT, the theory of PLATE TECTONICS is real and accepted by scientists!

What happened to Pangaea?

- Over time the plates began to drift apart.
- This was caused by convection currents in the asthenosphere.

**The
Break-up of
Pangaea**

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