

Plate Tectonic Changes

Geology: Plate Tectonics

Objective

- Explain and reconstruct how Earth's crust has changed over time due to the movement of tectonic plates

Who was Alfred Wegener?

- German meteorologist (person who studies the weather)
- Alfred Wegener is most famous for his Continental Drift Hypothesis



Evidence and Observations of Pangaea

- The continents seems to fit together like a puzzle
- Same fossil animals and plants found on different continents
- Mountain ranges and same rock types are the same age and follow similar trends on different continents
- Rocks and fossils show different climates on continents



What is Pangaea?

- The continents were once part of a super-continent (all together)

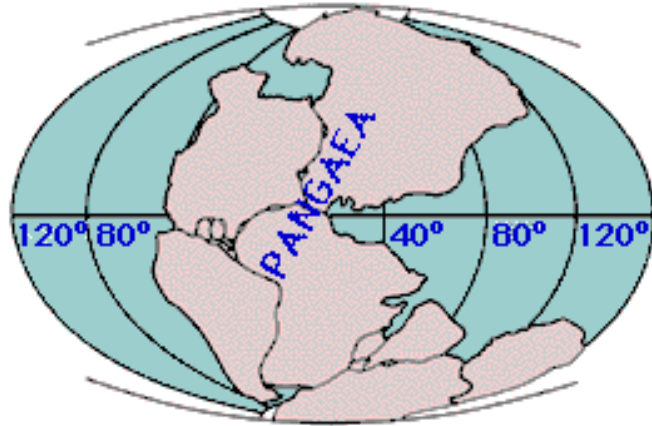


What is the Continental Drift Hypothesis?

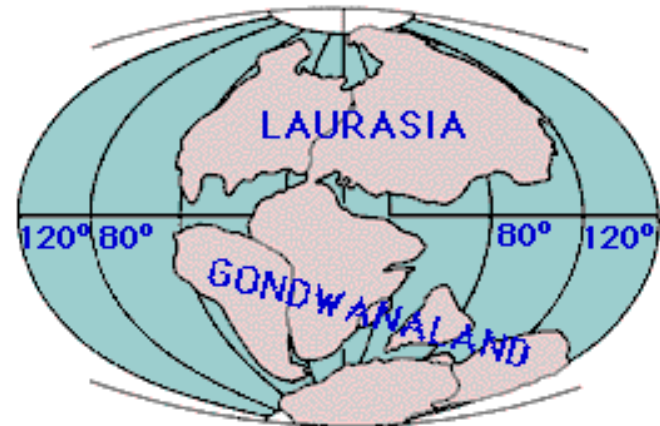
- All continents were together in one landmass
- An event occurred where Pangaea split into continents
- Continents drifted apart to their current day position



Wegener's Continental Drift Hypothesis



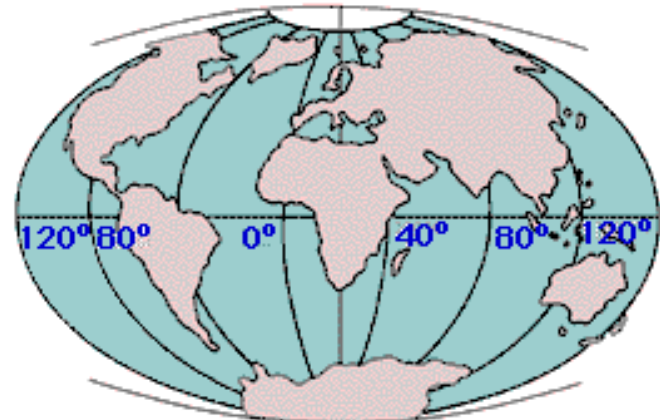
A 225 million years ago



B 135 million years ago



C 65 million years ago



D Present