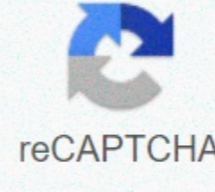




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Continental drift activity packet

Printer Friendly NGSS Science and Engineering Practices: NGSS Crosscutting Concepts: NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas: Table 7.5. Fig. 7.19 Scissors Colored pencils or crayons Construction paper Glue or gluestick World map (optional) Procedure A. Evaluate and interpret the available evidence. Carefully read each piece of evidence listed in Table 7.5. Discuss each piece of evidence with your group. Evaluate the quality of the evidence by ranking each statement on a scale of 1–5 in the “quality” column of Table 7.5:1 = “low quality” evidence that does not support the idea of continental drift 5 = “high quality” evidence that is very supportive of the idea of continental drift. Explain the reasoning for your ranking in the “interpretation” column of Table 7.5. B. Map the evidence. Use scissors to cut out all continent pieces from Fig. 7.19. Place the continent pieces in their modern day relative positions. You may lay these continent pieces over a modern world map if needed. Glacial striations are deep grooves gouged into rock formations by moving or spreading glaciers or ice sheets. Find regions where ancient glacial striations have been discovered, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with the symbol “=”. Color these regions yellow. Fossils of the fern plant Glossopteris can be found within the distinct Gondwana rock sequence (Table 7.5; Fig. 7.20 C). Find regions where Glossopteris plant fossils have been discovered, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with symbol G. Color these regions green. Fossils of the aquatic reptile Mesosaurus can be found within the distinct Gondwana rock sequence (Table 7.5; Fig. 7.20 A). Find regions where Mesosaurus fossils have been discovered, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with symbol M. Color these regions blue. Fossils of the aquatic reptile Cynognathus can be found within the distinct Gondwana rock sequence (Table 7.5; Fig. 7.20 B). Find regions where Cynognathus fossils have been discovered, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with symbol C. Color these regions orange. Fossils of the aquatic reptile Lystrosaurus can be found within the distinct Gondwana rock sequence (Table 7.5; Fig. 7.20 D). Find regions where Lystrosaurus fossils have been discovered, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with symbol L. Color these regions brown. Present-day earthworm species within the family Megascolecidae have a limited geographic distribution (Table 7.5). Find regions where present-day megascolecid earthworms occur, as indicated on Fig. 7.19 with symbol E. Color these regions red. Try to fit all the continent pieces together so that the continental edges match. Try to also make the colored evidence regions match. Compare your arrangement of matched continents to that of your classmates. Discuss the role of each piece of evidence in the arrangement of your supercontinent. After coming to an agreement on the arrangement of your single supercontinent, glue the pieces to a sheet of construction paper. Activity Questions: The following questions are about evaluating the quality of evidence in Table 7.5. a. Which pieces of evidence did you consider to be strongly in support of the idea that the continents have moved over a long time scale (continental drift)? b. Which pieces of evidence did you consider to refute the concept of continental movement over time? c. How did you assess the quality of scientific evidence in Table 7.5? d. Provide an example of poor quality evidence (from Table 7.5) and your reasons for considering it low quality. e. What makes a piece of evidence strong quality compared to poor quality? Develop your own explanation for the observed evidence listed in Table 7.5. Swap explanations with a classmate. Evaluate each other’s work based on how they address and explain the observed evidence. One shortfall of Alfred Wegener’s theory of continental drift in 1912 was that it lacked an explanation for how the continents could have moved over time. Can you suggest a possible mechanism driving the movement of entire continents? Glossopteris is a genus of fern plants known to have thrived in humid tropical and temperate climates. What does this information tell you about the climate of ancient Antarctica? Lystrosaurus fossils have been discovered in present-day China and Southeast Asia (part of Laurasia, not part of ancient Gondwanaland). Scientists are still working on an explanation for this observation. Suggest your own explanation for this phenomenon. Alfred Wegener’s theory of continental drift was first proposed in 1912. However, the concept of moving continents was not widely accepted by scientists until the 1960s. Why do you think the idea of moving continents took so long for the scientific community to accept? Which modern day landmasses are represented by in Fig. 7.18? Label them on your map. Are all of the current landmasses represented in Fig. 7.18? Which ones are missing? Table of Contents: Ice Age: Continental Drift enjoyed a nice, long run in theaters earlier this year. A few short months later, the flick will finally be hitting 3D Blu-ray, Blu-ray, and DVD just in time for the holidays on December 11. To celebrate, we have a few fun activity sheets for fans of the film—namely for the kids, although if you are into drawing animated characters or playing a bizarre version of Sudoku, we aren’t judging. I swear. Rarely do I think promotional material for releases is cool. However, Blue Sky Studios and Twentieth Century Fox are totally in tune with the age groups of its staunchest fans, and the latter have put together a few fun—and family friendly—activity sheets. If you check out the images at the bottom of the page, you can get your hands on a fine Sudoku puzzle, a drawing “how to,” an acorns dot game, and a pattern puzzle that looks especially challenging, but I’m also spectacularly bad when it comes to easy-to-play games. I’m not a huge fan of the Ice Age series, but I’ve known enough children to understand plenty of kids—and adults—disagree. One credit that Ice Age: Continental Drift deserves is for coming up with a set that’s about the kids and for the kids. You can check out the full list of 3D Blu-ray extras below, and don’t forget to take a look at the activity sheets at the bottom of the page. Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D Blu-ray Extras “Party with a Pirate! Mode “Sign Along Mode “Through a Pirate’s Spyglass: Voices Ahoy and Capturing the Crew” “Granny and the Stink of the Sloths” “Scrat Got Your Tongue?” “Whale of a Tale: Drifts, Rifts, Beasties and Myths” Gutt’s Sing-Along Shanty Shimmy Shake “We Are” Extended Music Video “Chasing the Sun” by The Wanted Music Video “The Sid Shuffle” Dance Along Deleted Scenes Ice Age: The Story So Far Original Theatrical Trailers The Earth’s continents have not always been where they are at present. If you look at a map of the world, you might notice what Alfred Wegener noticed – that the continents look as if they could fit together like a big jigsaw puzzle if you were able to move them around. Wegener published his theory in 1915. He tried to explain how the Earth drifted apart, but he was unable to give a scientific explanation. Many years later, though, this theory began to gain popularity, and now we understand more how it is possible that land masses can move. Continental drift is the concept that the Earth’s continents move relative to each other, with the Earth’s surface being broken into plates. Although it is reliable and durable, scientific knowledge is neither set in concrete nor perfect. Rather, it is subject to change in the light of new evidence or new interpretation of existing evidence. Because of its tentative nature, we cannot claim ‘absolute truth’ in science. The tentative nature of scientific knowledge also means that laws and theories may change. What evidence is there that continental drift has occurred? The continents can be fitted together rather like a jigsaw. Rock records show matching layers, mountain ranges and ancient basement rocks in continents that were once together. Glacial striations (scratches) and erratics (rocks moved away by glacial ice from original bedrock) correspond between continents. Some distinctive fossils found on the southern continents indicate that they came from one ancient single continent. Magnetic records left in the rocks seem to show that the Earth’s poles have changed, but the current thinking is that this is not the case – it is the rocks (plates) that have moved. How do the plates move? While the mechanisms are still being discussed, the current thinking is that the upper mantle of the Earth is in a state of convection, with hot material rising under diverging zones (plates moving apart) and cool material sinking in subduction zones (one plate diving and sinking underneath another plate). At converging plate boundaries, the plates collide and either mountains are formed or one plate is forced down into the mantle (subducted) under another. At transform plate boundaries, one plate slips alongside the other in the opposite direction. What effect has continental drift had on Antarctica? About 300 million years ago (mya) – There was only one large landmass called Pangaea. At that time, the land that is now Antarctica would have been much closer to the equator. 200 mya – Pangaea was separated by the Tethys Ocean. Laurasia was in the north and a southern part of the continent was Gondwana. Laurasia was close to the equator and made up of what is now North America, Europe and Asia. Gondwana consisted of the present day South Africa, South America, India, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica. 180 mya – Gondwana started to break up along the spreading plate boundaries. The climate was warm, and there were animals, trees and no ice sheets, much like New Zealand’s climate today. 50 mya – Antarctica moved towards the South Pole, away from Australia and South America and surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Ocean currents and wind could now circle the Earth without being blocked by land masses. These circumpolar winds blocked transfer of heat from the tropics, and heat trapped and carried by ocean currents no longer reached Antarctica. Temperatures cooled, and the East Antarctica ice sheet formed. 14 mya – Temperatures were no longer cooling, and the West Antarctica ice sheet formed. At Antarctica, scientists from GNS are investigating the thickness of Earth’s crust, the way seismic waves move through the crust and are dating rocks to better understand global plate movements and Antarctic’s past environment in relation to global climate change. continental drift activity packet answer key. continental drift activity packet quizlet. continental drift activity packet puzzle answers

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