Name: Date: Score: / 8

Evidence Plates Move: Learn and Practice

Clues that continents have moved over time.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Moving Continents

- Long ago the continents were joined in a supercontinent called Pangaea.
- Matching fossils, rocks and coastlines show the continents have moved.
- Seafloor rock is youngest near ocean ridges and older farther away.
- same fossil in Africa and South America: continents were joined

1 Who proposed the idea of continental drift?

A. Marie Curie B. Alfred Wegener

C. Charles Darwin D. Isaac Newton

2 What forms at a mid ocean ridge?

A. Sand dunes B. Mountains of ice

C. New seafloor D. Coral reefs

3 Which two continents fit together like puzzle pieces?

A. South America and Africa

B. Europe and Antarctica

C. Asia and South America

D. North America and Australia

4 Ancient glacier scratches are found in hot places like India. What does this suggest?

A. Glaciers form in deserts

B. Those lands were once near a pole

C. The Sun was hotter then

D. Animals made the scratches

5 🗺️ What was Pangaea?

A. An ancient ocean

B. A supercontinent from long ago

C. A volcano in Africa D. A type of dinosaur

6 What are tectonic plates?

A. Pieces of the inner core

B. Dishes used by geologists

C. Huge moving pieces of the lithosphere

D. Layers of the atmosphere

7 Fossils of Mesosaurus, a small freshwater reptile, are in Africa and South America. Why is this evidence?

A. It lived in both oceans

B. It could not swim across an ocean

C. People moved the fossils

D. It flew between them

8 About how fast do tectonic plates move?

A. They never move B. As fast as walking

C. As fast as a car

D. About as fast as fingernails grow

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about evidence plates move.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Plates Move: Learn and Practice (answers)

Clues that continents have moved over time.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 Who proposed the idea of continental drift?

A. Marie Curie **B. Alfred Wegener**

C. Charles Darwin D. Isaac Newton

Alfred Wegener suggested in 1912 that the continents had slowly drifted apart.

2 What forms at a mid ocean ridge?

A. Sand dunes B. Mountains of ice

C. New seafloor D. Coral reefs

Magma rises at the ridge, cools and forms brand new oceanic crust that spreads outward.

3 Which two continents fit together like puzzle pieces?

A. South America and Africa

B. Europe and Antarctica

C. Asia and South America

D. North America and Australia

The east coast of South America fits neatly into the west coast of Africa, a clue they were once joined.

4 Ancient glacier scratches are found in hot places like India. What does this suggest?

A. Glaciers form in deserts

B. Those lands were once near a pole

C. The Sun was hotter then

D. Animals made the scratches

Glaciers need cold climates, so these lands must have been somewhere much colder long ago.

5 🗺️ What was Pangaea?

A. An ancient ocean

B. A supercontinent from long ago

C. A volcano in Africa D. A type of dinosaur

About 300 million years ago most land was joined in one giant supercontinent called Pangaea.

6 What are tectonic plates?

A. Pieces of the inner core

B. Dishes used by geologists

C. Huge moving pieces of the lithosphere

D. Layers of the atmosphere

Earth's rigid outer shell is cracked into giant pieces called plates that slowly move.

7 Fossils of Mesosaurus, a small freshwater reptile, are in Africa and South America. Why is this evidence?

A. It lived in both oceans

B. It could not swim across an ocean

C. People moved the fossils

D. It flew between them

A small freshwater reptile could not cross a wide salty ocean, so the lands must have been joined.

8 About how fast do tectonic plates move?

A. They never move B. As fast as walking

C. As fast as a car

D. About as fast as fingernails grow

Plates move just a few centimeters each year, about as fast as your fingernails grow.