

Continental Drift

In 1910, Alfred Wegener, an instructor of meteorology - a new science in Germany at that time - was surprised like others before him that the shapes of Africa and South America looked almost alike. First, he pushed the thought from his mind because he could not prove it. But about a year later, he read an article on the similarity of fossils, and from that time on, he collected any evidence he could get to prove that the continents may have been contiguous. Finally in 1915, he published his work with the supporting evidence. He was convinced that the continents were part of a giant continent called Pangaea. At some time in the Jurassic period (about 180 millions of years ago), Pangaea split along many cracks, and the fragments began to drift apart. 58 millions of years ago, the Arctic and Australian continents moved southwards and the North and South American continents drifted westwards. Later on, about 2 millions of years ago, the American continents move away from the European continent and Australia more eastwards.

→ Read the text and find three questions to ask the class!