

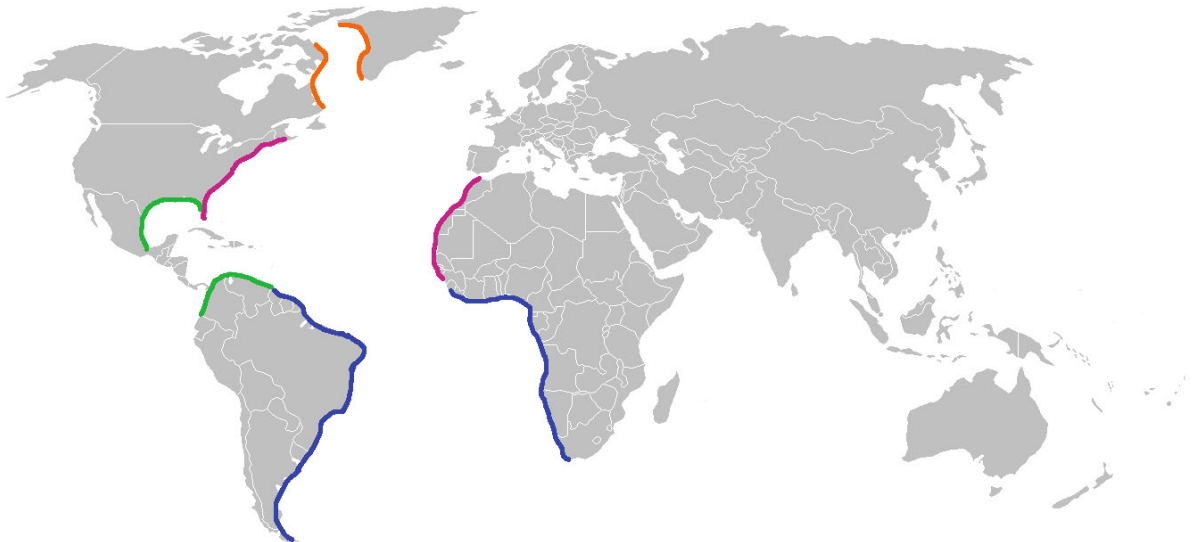
Continental Drift – CK-12

When you look at a map of the world, do you see just the continents? Or, like scientist Alfred Wegener, do you see possible pieces of a puzzle?

Can you see where some coastlines might match up with another?



How about now? What if you matched up the colored sections of the continents?



Our Earth has been around for a LONG time, and in that time, the continents, the land masses that we all live on, have shifted around. They have slowly roamed, or drifted about the planet, colliding into one another and then pulling apart, leaving us with the map we see today.

This idea of Continental Drift is what German scientist Alfred Wegener observed back in 1910. So how did his observation become the study of plate tectonics today?

First, Wegener made an observation (some of the continents look like matching puzzle pieces). From that observation, he formed a hypothesis as to why they used to fit together. He then collected evidence that would support or refute his hypothesis. What did that process look like and how did it support his idea of Continental Drift?