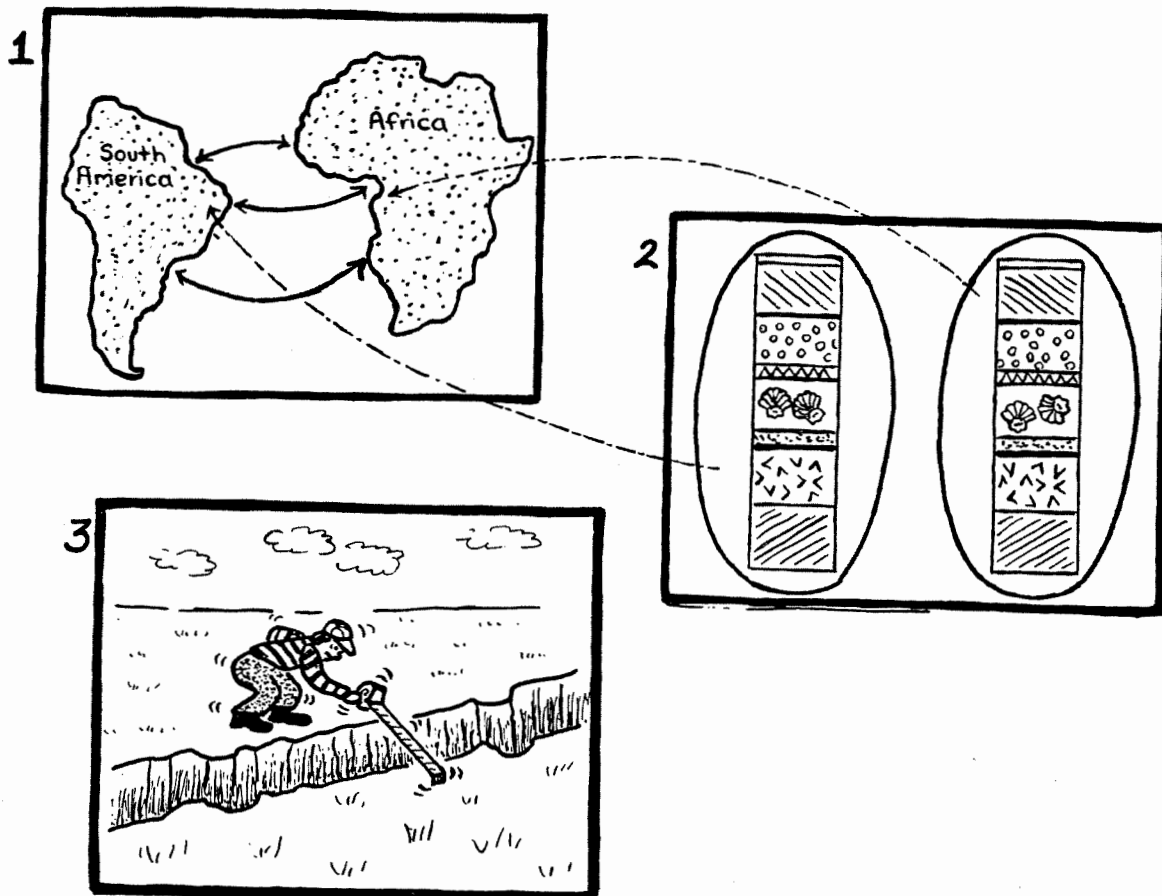


PLATE TECTONICS

Millions of years ago all of the continents were joined together in one supercontinent called Pangea. The continents have split apart and are moving very slowly. (3-5 cm each year)

The plates sort of “float” on the squishy mantle. Three reasons we know the plates are moving are:

- 1) jigsaw-puzzle effect
- 2) fossils and rocks are the same on both sides of the ocean
- 3) measuring.



THE BREAK-UP OF PANGEA

NAME: _____

1. The idea that the continents were joined at one time and are moving slowly apart is called Plate _____.

2. List three things that tell us that the plates are moving.

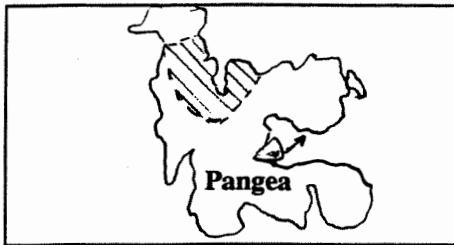
1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3. The following four pictures show the breakup of Pangea. Colour Canada pink and India green in all four pictures.

1. 250 million years ago



2. 150 million years ago




3. 100 million years ago



4. Today



Canada 

India 

4. What do the pictures show? (A.I.F.S.)

5. Use the pictures to guess which description is closest to what Canada looked like 60 million years ago. (Choose a, b or c)

- a) 60 million years ago, the climate in Canada was hot and dry. The temperature never dropped below freezing and deserts covered the land.
- b) 60 million years ago, the climate in Canada was cold and dry, just like it is today. Temperatures often dropped below freezing for months at a time.
- c) 60 million years ago, the climate in Canada was hot and rainy. The temperature never dropped below freezing and jungles covered most of the land.

6. Explain reasons for choosing your answer in question #5. (A.I.F.S.)

7. Skeletons of Tyrannosaurs Rex (T-Rex) that are 60 million years old have been found in Alberta and Saskatchewan where the winters today are much too cold for dinosaurs to live through. Use your knowledge of plate tectonics to help explain this mystery.

