



A Plate Tectonics Puzzle

Solve the puzzle to discover what the Earth looked like 220 million years ago.

1. What's the code? Use the legend to identify the symbols on each island or continent.
2. Puzzle me this. Look at the shapes of continents and islands. What landmasses seem to fit together?
3. Let's rock! Examine the evidence and try to match up landmass boundaries that show similar rock strata, fossilized desert belts, and dinosaur fossils.
4. Hold that Pose. Look over the arrangement of the continents and islands and decide if the position of any of them should change. When you are satisfied with your map of Pangaea, tape or glue it down on the world map.

Did You Know?

- Tectonic plates are made of both continental and oceanic crust. The land that we see is the continental crust, about 30 kilometers (19 mi) thick. Under the sea, the heavier oceanic crust is much thinner, about 8 to 10 kilometers (5 to 6 mi) thick.
- Plates move about 8 centimeters (3 in) per year. That's about as fast as a fingernail grows in a year!
- The tallest mountains in the world are still growing. About 60 million years ago, the Himalayan Mountains formed when the Indian Plate crashed into the Eurasian Plate. Today the two plates are still colliding and the Himalayas continue to rise.
- Los Angeles sits on the Pacific Plate that is moving northwest and San Francisco sits on the North American Plate that is moving southeast. Moving towards each other at the rate of 5 centimeters (2 in) a year, someday these two cities may be neighbors!



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LEGEND

1 Europe & Asia

4 Africa

7 Australia

basalt

Plateosaurus

2 North America

5 India

landmasses
BELOW sea level

desert

Phytosaur

3 South America

6 Antarctica

landmasses
ABOVE sea level

amphibian

Rhynchosaur

N

W

E

S



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LANDMASSES TO CUT OUT

