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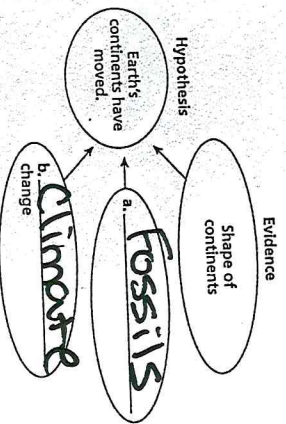
## Plate Tectonics • Guided Reading and Study

## Drifting Continents

This section describes a theory of how the continents came to be located where they are today. The section also gives evidence for the theory and explains why the theory was not accepted for many years.

## Use Target Reading Skills

As you read about the evidence that supports the theory of continental drift, complete the graphic organizer.



## Continental Drift

1. State Alfred Wegener's hypothesis about how Earth's continents have moved.  
All continents were once connected  
called Pangaea.
2. Wegener named his supercontinent Pangaea
3. What did Wegener think had happened to this supercontinent?  
Continents started to drift  
apart.
4. Wegener's idea that the continents slowly moved over Earth's surface became known as Continental Drift

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5. Circle the letter of each sentence that supports Wegener's hypothesis.

- ☒ a. Some continents match up like jigsaw puzzle pieces.
- ☒ b. Different rock structures are found on different continents.
- ☒ c. Fossils of tropical plants are found near the equator.
- ☐ d. Continental glaciers once covered South Africa.

6. Give an example of evidence from land features that supported Wegener's idea of continental drift.

Mountain ranges form from plates coming together (convergent boundary) fossils.

8. How did Wegener explain similar fossils on different continents?

Some reptile fossil found on different continents.

9. Is the following sentence true or false? Wegener believed that continental drift explained fossils of tropical plants found in places that today have a polar climate. True #2

## Wegener's Hypothesis Rejected

10. How did Wegener think that mountains formed? Plates meet and run up, the believed the land converged.
11. How do the locations of mountains support Wegener's idea about how mountains form? mountain chains or ranges show convergent boundary locations.