

Name: _____
Pd: ___ Date: _____

Activity: Piecing Together Pangea

Scientists have used many separate lines of evidence to determine how the continents might once have fit together. This activity, too, will use various pieces of evidence to reconstruct the supercontinent Pangea.

Question:





How did the continents fit together before Pangea broke apart?

Materials:

- Photocopy of continents
- Scissors
- 21.5 cm x 28 cm sheet of paper
- glue

Procedure:

1. Obtain a photocopy of the continents from your teacher. Cut out each continent, trimming the pieces just to the edge of the dotted lines. The dotted lines represent the true continental edges, the continental shelves.
2. Use the clues provided in the legend below and the shapes of the continents to help you reconstruct Pangea. Piece together the continent shapes into a supercontinent on a separate piece of paper, but do not glue them down yet.
3. Once you assembled your pieces, check with your teacher before gluing them on to the blank sheet of paper.
4. Copy the legend below onto the paper with your map of Pangea.

Fossils	Glacial Deposits	Matching Folded Mountains	Coal Deposits
			

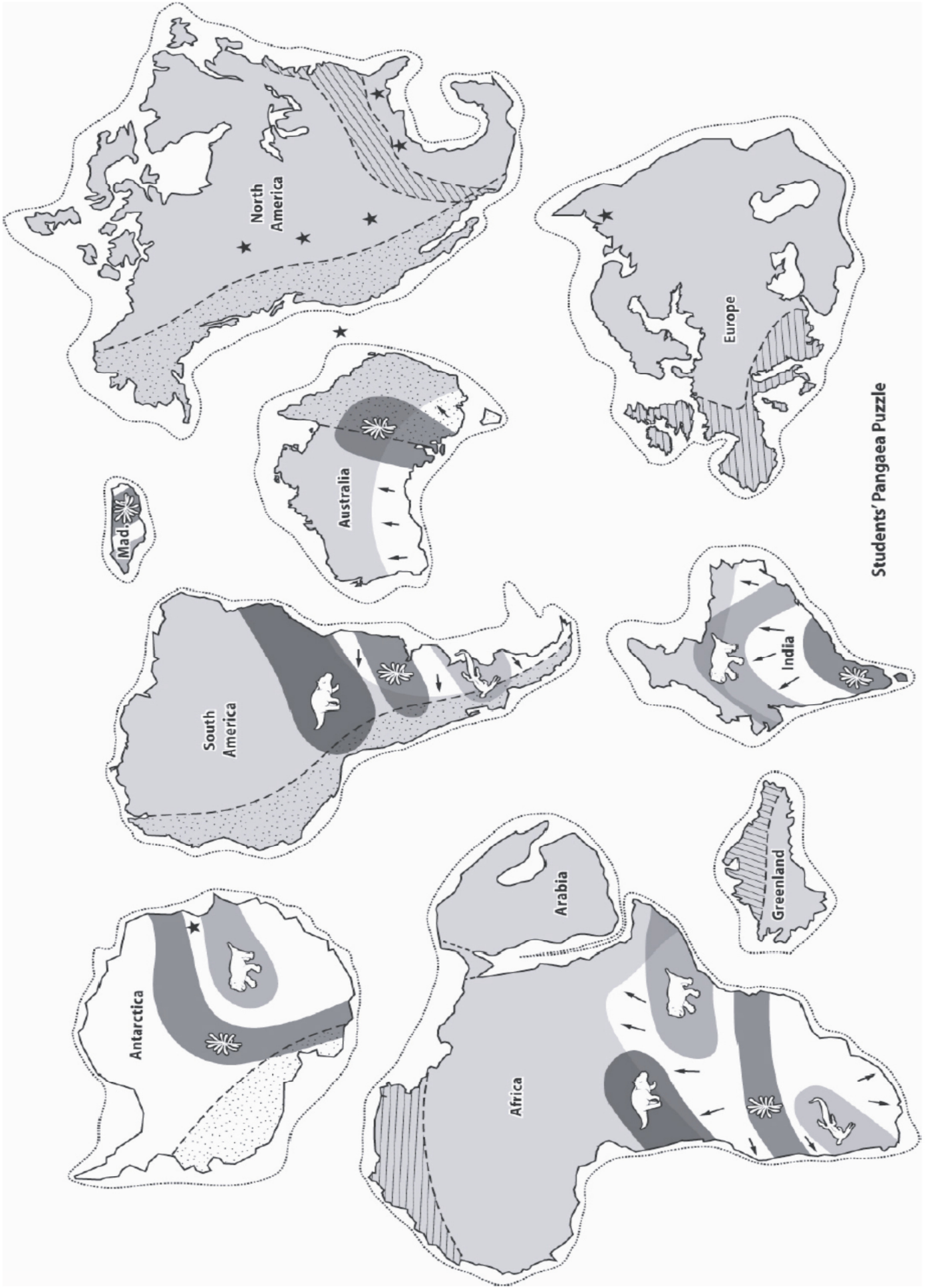
5. Clean up and put away the materials you have used.

Analyze:

1. Which continents were easiest to fit together? Explain why.
2. Of the pieces of the evidence that you used to reconstruct Pangea, which provided the best clues as to how the continents were once joined? Justify your answer.
3. a) Were there any pieces of Pangea that you found difficult to place?
b) If so, what other evidence would have helped you to place these pieces?

Conclude and Apply:

1. a) In a few sentences, summarize the steps you took to reconstruct Pangea.
b) How was the process you took similar to the method Alfred Wegener used to support continental drift theory?
2. Why did you use several pieces of evidence to reconstruct Pangea, not just one?
3. a) Hypothesize where the continents might have been situated in 200 million years.
b) Describe how ecosystems of British Columbia's west coast might change as a result. Justify your answers.



Students' Pangaea Puzzle