

Continental Drift: What's the Big Idea?

Final Assignment Instructions

In this lesson, you have learned how an idea that started with a man looking at a map of the continents became a scientific theory. You have also learned that theories can sometimes be made stronger as new pieces of evidence are discovered. You will now write an essay that shares what you have learned and what you think about it. You will need to review your notes.

- Choose one of the topics below and write an essay.
- **Organize** your response so that it includes at least three supporting details that you have learned from the reading passage, video, and other materials in this lesson.
- **Use** at least three vocabulary words (or a form of the words) as part of your supporting details.

Essay Topics

1. Explain how Alfred Wegener turned his idea of continental drift into a “real” scientific theory. Be sure to mention the pieces of evidence he collected and how well they supported his idea.
2. Describe the main reasons why the scientific community did not accept Alfred Wegener's idea of continental drift. Be sure to explain what eventually changed their minds.

Vocabulary Words

evidence
theory
continent
geologist
fossils