

Analyzing Evidence of Continental Drift

Directions: Read each of the statements carefully. Decide whether or not they are evidence of continental drift. Place an "X" under the yes or no column. If you marked a "YES", then decide which type of evidence it is, and fill in the column all the way to the right with "fossil", "landform, or "climate"

Is it evidence? Yes or no	Statements	Select from the drop down menu. What type of evidence is this? (Fossil, landform, climate)
	1. 1858: Geologist Eduard Seuss points out that fossils of the Glossopteris plant are found in southern Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica, and India.	
	2. Wegener examines the location of tiny rocks and the direction of grooves formed by large glaciers scraping across southern areas of Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica, and India. He concludes that if all these places were fitted together, they would form a continuous ice sheet expanding outward in all directions.	
	3. Frankfurt News, January 6, 1912: Announcement that German scientist Alfred Wegener will speak at the Geological Association meeting.	
	4. Popular Geology magazine, March 12, 1912: "Continents are so large they must always have been where they are."	
	5. Wegener observes that a South American mountain range in Argentina lines up with an ancient African mountain range in South Africa when the two continents are placed together. He writes: "It is just as if we were to refit the torn pieces of a newspaper by matching their edges and then check whether the lines of print ran smoothly across. If they do, there is nothing left but to conclude that the pieces were in fact joined in this way."	
	6. 1927: Geologist Alexander du Toit observes rock layers on the western coast of Africa in the following sequence: basalt rock, shale containing fossil reptiles, coal layers containing Glossopteris fossils, rocks containing Mesosaurus fossils, and shale. He	

	discovers an almost identical sequence of rock layers on the eastern coast of South America.	
	7. 1944: Geologist Baily Willis calls Wegener's theory a fairy tale. He argues that the theory should be ignored.	
	8. 1965: Geologist Edward Bullard uses computers to match coasts of South America and Africa. They match extremely well at an ocean depth of 1,000 meters.	
	9. 1980s: Satellites and lasers are used to measure the movement of continents. They continue to move at an average of about 2 cm (0.8 in) per year.	
	10. Fossils of Megascolecina earthworms are found in South America, Africa, India, and Australia, as well as the islands of Madagascar and New Guinea.	