

The Continental Drift Theory

Piecing It All Together



PERMIAN

250 million years ago

The Atlantic and Indian oceans did not exist, and all the continents were configured into the universal landmass of Pangaea. The land was surrounded by one global ocean, called Panthalassa.

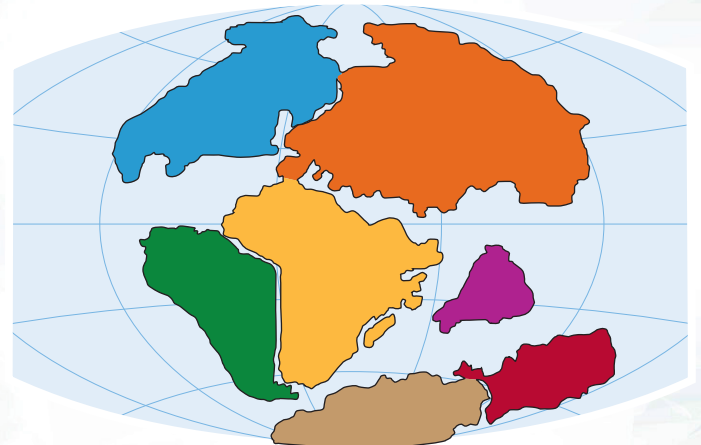


TRIASSIC

200 million years ago

The breakup of Pangaea began. Rifts formed, splitting West Gondwana from East Gondwana. India separated from Antarctica. Laurasia split from South America and Africa.

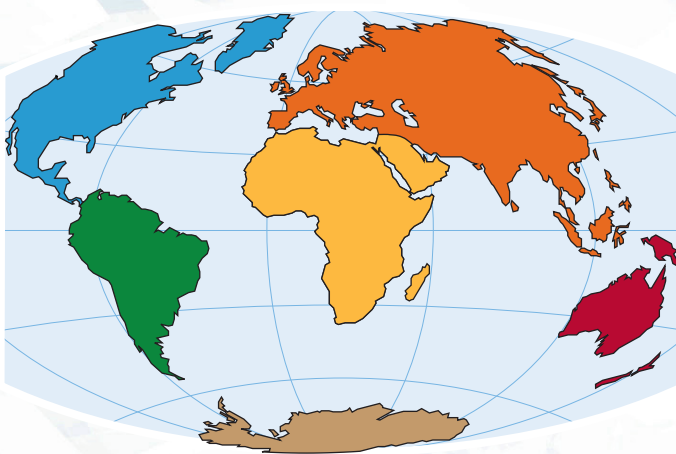
Two hundred and fifty million years ago, the landmasses of Earth were clustered into one supercontinent called Pangaea. As millions of years passed, Pangaea broke apart, and large pieces of land slowly moved away to form the continents as we know them today.



JURASSIC

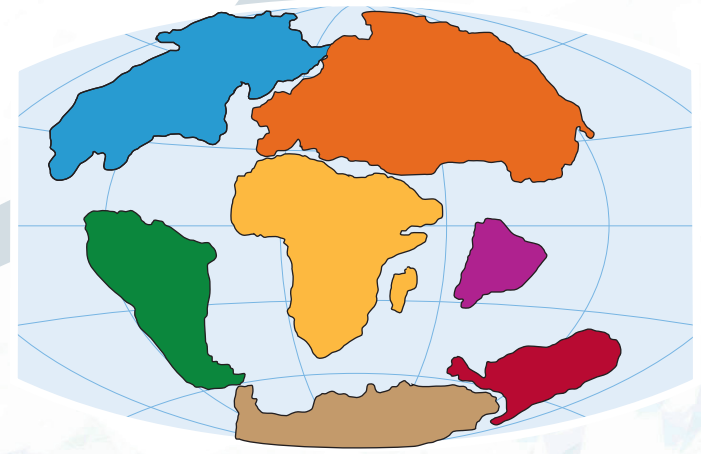
145 million years ago

Seafloor spreading further opened the central North Atlantic and Indian oceans. At the end of the period, a new rift split South America from Africa.



PRESENT DAY

New Zealand is split from Australia's east coast. The North and South Atlantic oceans are more open. Africa is slightly north, and India is joined with Asia.



CRETACEOUS

65 million years ago

The movement continued. Madagascar drifted away from Africa, which continued its move north. The northward drift of India continued, and Australia split from Antarctica.

