



UKS2 Geography Knowledge Organiser

Jurassic Jewels and Triassic Treasures

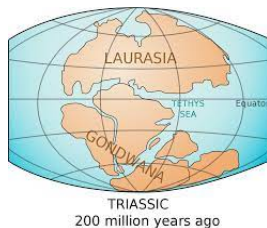
Key Knowledge and Skills

The Continental Drift

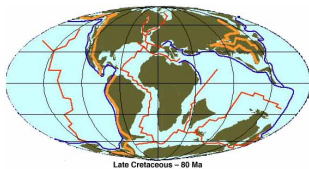


Before the continents we know today came to exist, they were once all one landmass. During the Triassic Period, all continents were a single landmass called Pangaea.

At the end of the Triassic Period, the single land mass (Pangaea) split in two creating Laurasia in the North and Gondwana in the South. Despite this separation, similarities in fossil records show there were some land connections between the two continents in the early Jurassic period. These regions became more distinct as time went on.

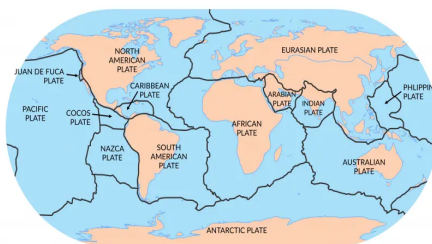


During the Cretaceous period, the land separated further into some of the continents we recognise today, although in different positions. This meant dinosaurs evolved independently in different parts of the world.



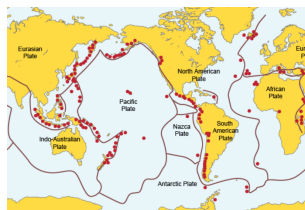
Tectonic Plates

Tectonic plates are broken pieces of the Earth's crust or lithosphere (earth's most outer layer). These rigid plates can move in different directions, shifting constantly. They make up the "puzzle pieces" of the Earth that fit together as landmasses.



Volcanoes

Volcanoes form when magma reaches the surface. The magma erupts to form lava. Volcanoes usually form along plate boundaries, where tectonic plates are either moving towards or away from one another.



Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
continents	One of the seven large land masses on the Earth's surface.
Pangaea	A supercontinent where all landmass was stuck together in the Mesozoic era.
continental drift	The very slow movement of continents over the Earth's surface.
landmass	A large area of land that is in one piece (such as a continent).
Tectonic plates	Broken pieces of the Earth's crust or lithosphere that move in different directions and shift.
plate boundaries	Where the edges of two tectonic plates meet.
Constructive plate boundary	Where two plates move away from one another.
Destructive plate boundary	Where two plates move towards one another.
volcanoes	A mountain with a large, circular hole at the top through which lava, gases, steam, and dust are forced out.
earth's crust	The light, rocky most outer layer of the Earth..
lithosphere	The rigid, outer part of the earth (consisting of the crust and the upper mantle).
magma	Hot liquid rock found just below the earth's surface.
lava	Hot liquid rock that comes out of the Earth through a volcano.



Alfred Wegener

Alfred Wegener was a German geophysicist. He was the first person to theorise that tectonic plates existed (1912). He noticed that the shapes of western Africa and eastern South America looked as though they could fit together like a puzzle. He thought that the continents must once have been joined together, and somehow moved apart over many millions of years. He named this supercontinent Pangaea.

