

What if Pangaea Had Never Broken Up?

Introduction

During the Mesozoic era, the supercontinent of Pangaea broke apart. In this exercise, you will describe what your town or city might be like if plates weren't moving and Earth's land still formed one large continent.

Task

Write a research paper explaining what your town or city would be like if plate tectonics had not broken up Pangaea. Sketch a diagram that reflects the climate, vegetation, animal life, and geological features in your location city under those circumstances.

Resources and Process

1. You need to know where your town would be in an intact Pangaea—on a coast, inland, in the mountains, or even under water. Before you write your paper and sketch your diagram, you should answer questions such as the following. The answer to these questions will serve as the body of your writing

1. Did the world have a different climate during Pangaea's existence?
2. Would it still have that climate today if Pangaea hadn't broken up?
3. Would your town be nearer to the equator or to the ocean than it is today?
4. How would that affect the climate and the animals and vegetation that live there?
5. How would a change in these resources affect the human population?
6. How would the geology of your area be affected? Would your elevation be different?

To find out where your town would be in an intact Pangaea, check these sites.

Paleogeography Through Geologic Time:

http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~rcb7/global_history.html

Color-Coded Continents:

<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/geology/usgsnps/pltec/scplseqai.html>

3. To find out about the climate, inhabitants, and geology of Pangaea, check these sites.

Time Machine Exhibit:

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/help/timeform.html>

Triassic Period:

http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/dinos/de_4/5c5cae8.htm

Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems:

<http://www.es.ucsc.edu/~pkoch/lectures/lecture19.html>

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Learning Advice

- Did you use information from multiple sources?
- Did you cross-check the information that you found?
- Did you incorporate the information into a sketch?

Conclusion: include this response in your paper.

How do you think your surroundings would be different if Pangaea were still a supercontinent? Explain your answer.

Rubric for WebQuest*What if Pangaea Had Never Broken Up?*

	Poor (1 pt.)	Fair (2 pts.)	Good (3 pts.)	Exemplary (4 pts.)
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not address possible change of location. Shows very little or no research done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses change of location but shows little consideration of the ramifications. Shows minimal research done. No synthesis of information from more than one source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses change of location and considers several ramifications. Synthesis of information from more than one source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses change of location and extensively considers the ramifications. Outstanding synthesis of information from several sources.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous errors in spelling and/or sentence structure make the assignment almost impossible to read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many errors in spelling and/or sentence structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few errors in spelling and/or sentence structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost no errors in spelling and/or sentence structure.