FLINN SCIENTIFIC

Name_____

Sea Floor Spreading Worksheet

Post-Lab Questions

Part 1

1. What do you observe about how the shapes of the continents and ocean crust pieces fit together?

2. Define sea floor spreading. Where does it occur?

3. Briefly describe the basic assumptions of plate tectonics. What geologic features or events occur at plate boundaries?

Part II

1. How do the overall size of the oceans 66 million years ago compare to the size of today's oceans?

2. From your observations, what can you conclude about the strength or durability of the continent landmasses?

3. What time period does the continent/ocean floor configuration formed in Part II represent?

Part III

1. What geological time period does the continent/ocean floor configuration formed in step 2 of Part III represent? What was the most well-known type of organism alive during this time period.

2. How well do the continental plates fit together?

3. When did the supercontinent Pangaea form?

4. Record all observations about the assembled simulated Pangaea landmass.

Part IV

1. Define continental drift.

2. Name the three types of evidence that support continental drift.

3. What is a craton?

4. Explain, in your own words, the relevance of the following evidence regarding the existence of Pangaea:

Evaporite and calcium carbonate rock locations.

The types of cratons found in South America and Africa.

The fossils of *Mesosaurus* and *Glossopteris*.