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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?

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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.