

Plate Tectonics and Alfred Wegener

Please answer the following questions, to the best of your abilities, based on the reading packet that has been provided; all answers should be recorded in your Composition Book. (15 Points)

Answer question #1 prior to reading:

1. Explain what you already know about the theory of Plate Tectonics. What does this theory help to explain about the Earth that we see/feel on the surface, where we live?

Plate Tectonics Reading:

2. Discuss the difference between “Continental Drift” theory and the theory of “Plate Tectonics”? Why did scientists believe that Wegener’s theory was false? What evidence did Wegener use during his life to make the case that his theory was indeed true?
3. Define Pangaea. What proof is there that Pangaea actually existed? Of the evidence provided in the article, what do you think is the most important piece of evidence used to defend the existence of Pangaea?

Alfred Wegener Biography:

4. After reading the short biography of Alfred Wegener’s life do you believe that he was a “successful” person? Please use specific evidence from this reading to support your position.
(To meaningfully answer this question you must start by stating what your definition of the word “successful” is, then create a list of three examples of people that fit your definition of the word “successful”.)
5. Why might a person not have to be “happy” to be considered “successful”?

(Remember, all answers should be written in your Composition Book! If you have questions about Plate Tectonics, Pangaea, Wegener, or anything else from this reading/Unit be sure to write them down in the “Questions” margin of your Composition Book)