

ES104 Video Exercise on Plate Tectonics

Answer the following questions related to "Birth of a Theory" video.

1. What is "plate tectonics" and why is it important to geologists?
2. Who was Alfred Wegner and what was his contribution to geology?
3. What was Wegner's explanation as to why the continents "drift"? (what force makes them drift, in his mind?)
4. Explain Harry Hess' ide of seaflood spreading.
5. Is the earth expanding in size and volume because of seafloor spreading? Why or why not - explain.
6. What is rock "paleomagnetism"? What is it's significance to the study of geology?
7. What are faults? Where do transform faults occur?
8. What is the significance of plate tectonics?