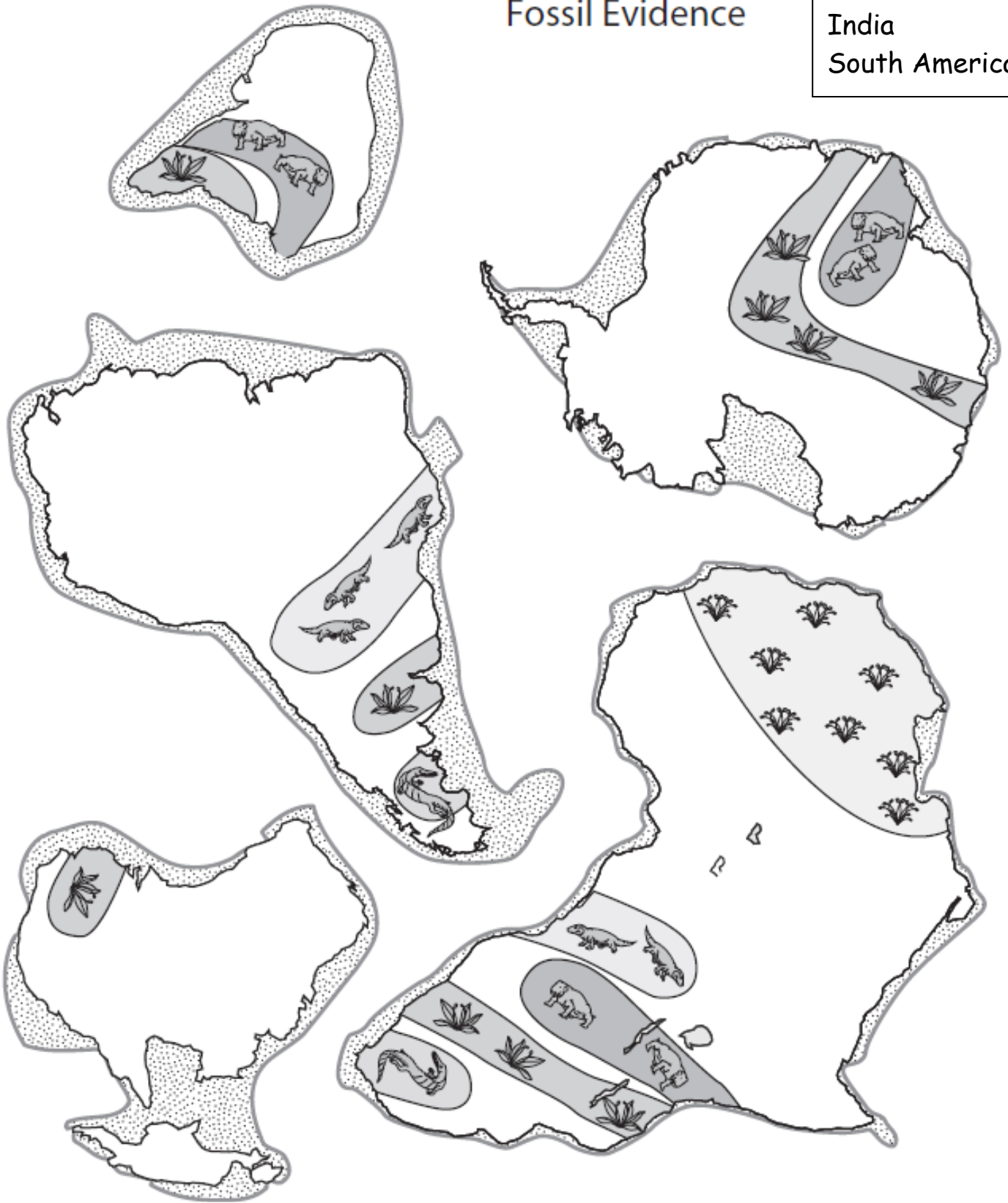


- Africa
- Antarctica
- Australia
- India
- South America

Fossil Evidence



Directions:

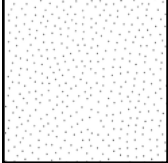





1. Label the land masses. Color the fossil areas to match the legend.
2. Cut out each of the continents along the edge of the continental shelf (the outermost dark line).
3. Try to logically piece the continents together so that they form a giant supercontinent.

Wegener's Puzzling Evidence

DIRECTIONS:

1. Label the land masses on each sheet. Color the fossil areas to match the legend below.
2. Cut out each of the continents along the edge of the continental shelf (the outermost dark line). Alfred Wegener's evidence for continental drift is shown on the cut-outs. Wegener used this evidence to reconstruct the positions of the continents relative to each other in the distant past.
3. Try to logically piece the continents together so that they form a giant supercontinent.
4. When you are satisfied with the 'fit' of the continents, glue them on your notebook paper.
5. Answer the questions below your completed continent.

Key to Wegener's Puzzling Evidence – Fossils

	<p>The continents is surrounded by the continental shelf (stippled pattern), which extends beyond the continent until there is a large change in slope.</p>
	<p>By about 300 million years ago, a unique community of plants had evolved known as the European flora. Fossils of these plants are found in Europe and other areas. Color the areas with these fossils yellow.</p>
	<p>Fossils of the fern <i>Glossopteris</i> have been found in these locations . Color the areas with these fossils green.</p>
	<p>Fossil remains of the half meter-long fresh or brackish water (reptile) <i>Mesosaurus</i>. <i>Mesosaurus</i> flourished in the early Mesozoic Era, about 240 million years ago. <i>Mesosaurus</i> had limbs for swimming, but could also walk on land. Other fossil evidence found in rocks along with <i>Mesosaurus</i> indicate that they lived in lakes and coastal bays or estuaries. Color the areas with these fossils blue.</p>
	<p>Fossil remains of <i>Cynognathus</i>, a land reptile approximately 3 meters long that lived during the Early Mesozoic Era, about 230 million years ago. It was a weak swimmer. Color the areas with these fossils orange.</p>
	<p>Fossil evidence of the Early Mesozoic, land-dwelling reptile <i>Lystrosaurus</i>. They reproduced by laying eggs on land. In addition, their anatomy suggests that these animals were probably very poor swimmers. Color the areas with these fossils brown.</p>

QUESTIONS:

1. Scientists have found *Mesosaurus* fossils on the east coast of the southern tip of South America and the west coast of South Africa. Even though we know this animal could swim, does the presence of *Mesosaurus* fossil remains in two places support Wegener's theory? Why or why not?
2. Based on the geologic past, we can assume that Earth is always changing. What modern-day evidence supports this idea? Hint: Think about natural disasters.
3. What do you think? You are now armed with the evidence that scientists have found. Is continental drift a plausible (believable) theory? Why or why not?