

Section 1, Module 1: Pangaea and Continental drift – Student Handout

Consider the image below to answer the questions provided.



Image source: <https://socratic.org/questions/what-is-pangea>

Questions:

- 1) Pangaea was a supercontinent that existed 300 million years ago. How could you explain the separation of Pangaea into the continents we have today?
- 2) What are some of the consequences experienced by the organisms that lived in the supercontinent Pangea, as a result of this separation? Elaborate your answer basing on your knowledge of speciation.
- 3) Considering the existence of Pangaea, would you think it is possible that an organism in East South America could be more related to a Western African organism than to another South American organism? Explain.
- 4) Describe the techniques that scientists can use to investigate which organisms lived in different ages?
- 5) Observe the map made available by your teacher. What are the compelling arguments in favour of the existence of Pangaea and continental drift? List at least three of them.
- 6) If you were a scientist, how would you investigate the relatedness between species? What kind of evidence would you use (e.g. resemblance between organisms)?