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Activities

Drifting Continents, Past and Future

Name: _____ Date: _____

The continents once formed one giant supercontinent called Pangaea. Over millions of years, they slowly drifted to their current positions. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll rewind time to see where they came from. Then, you'll fast-forward to see where they might be headed.

Directions

- What did the supercontinent Pangaea look like? Watch an animation, then view this timeline.
- Check out these USGS color-coded continents. The colors of the continents make it easier to track movements over millions of years. Scroll to *Earth Today* and *30 Million Years Ago (MYA)* maps and compare. Use the information to complete the first row of the Workspace table for question 1.
- Use the maps of the other time periods to finish filling in the table.
- What will the planet look like millions of years from now? Noboby can say for sure. But scientists can use the direction tectonic plates are moving now to make predictions. Check out this view 50 million years in the future. Use the information to complete the first row of the table for question 2.
- Fast forward 150 million years and 250 million years into the future. Complete the rest of the table.

Workspace

1. Continental Drift "Rewind"

Time in Past	**How Did Continents Move?**
30 mya to present	
90 mya to 30 mya	
120 mya to 90 mya	
150 mya to 120 mya	

2. Continental Drift "Fast-Forward"

Time in Future	Where Might Continents Be?
50 million years from now	
150 million years from now	
250 million years from now	

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