

The year is 1915. You are a geologist attending a conference (and vacationing!) in Italy where a German meteorologist, Alfred Wegener, has given a lecture from his new book, *The Origin of Continents and Oceans*. In it, he argues that some 300 million years ago, all of the continents were connected into one giant landmass, and they have been “drifting” apart ever since.

With your group, take some time to consider the following. Record your reflections in response to this hypothesis, and be prepared to defend your statements. **The map is presented for inspiration!**



- ❖ In order to make such an outrageous claim, he **MUST** have some evidence. What evidence might he have that suggests the land masses were once all joined together? **BE SPECIFIC!!**

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- ❖ If **YOU** were to look for the evidence, where would you go and why?

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- ❖ What are some reasons *not* to believe Wegener’s hypothesis?

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- ❖ Now the big one. Why would it be impossible for the continents to “drift” apart?

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