

FOSSIL STORY

Can you help the fossils and their friends find their way home? Where was their home? Did they all live together or just look at each other across oceans? We're going to collect fossils from different layers of the lithosphere (crust and upper part of the mantle), comparing and contrasting the fossils we find in order to get evidence to help us explain a question about Earth and its past. We're looking at the continents that make up a land mass called Gondwanaland, which was around about 180 million years ago (mya).

You are going to look at layers of sedimentary rock to explore the fossils in each layer and look for evidence of where the current continents were at different times throughout Earth's history.

The sedimentary layers are color coded and should be layered with the youngest rocks at the top and oldest rocks at the bottom (*Law of Superposition*). You will use the fossil identification charts to help you, as well.

blue = present day
green = late in age of dinosaurs (100 mya)
yellow = early in age of reptiles (200 mya)
red = coal age (300 mya)

Glue this side into your notebook

What are fossils?

What is sedimentary rock?

How are fossils and sedimentary rock related?

What do you think would be a good focus question for this activity?



Data Sheet: Fossils and Living Animals Found on the Five Continents of Gondwanaland

Time	Continent				
	South America	Africa	India	Australia	Antarctica
Present Day (blue)					
One hundred million years ago (mya) (green)					
Two hundred million years ago (mya) (yellow)					
Three hundred million years ago (mya) (red)					