

Earth Science: National Geographic – Colliding Continents Video Worksheet

1. List the 7 continents. _____

2. 4.6 billion years ago, the Earth is created from what? _____
3. The heaviest elements, including _____ and _____, sink in the early molten Earth to form the _____.
4. The lighter elements, including _____ and _____ rise towards the surface and erupt in volcanoes as molten rock.
5. Most scientists believe that the water that formed our oceans came from many, many _____, which contained water.
6. How old was Earth believed to be when the first early, relatively stable land masses formed? _____ years old
7. What continent is believed to be the site of the earliest giant continental land mass on Earth? _____
8. What type of rock formed the first continents? _____
9. As radioactive uranium decays it turns into what stable element? _____
10. Why is granite less dense than other rock in Earth’s mantle? _____
11. The ‘giant jigsaw puzzle’ of interlocking pieces that make up Earth’s crust are called what? _____
12. The tectonic plates “float” on what layer of Earth? _____
13. Evidence for the theory of continental drift was first proposed in 1912 by what German Scientist? _____
14. When Wegener first proposed his theory of continental drift, why did the scientific community reject his ideas? _____

15. Heat escaping from the core creates _____ in the next layer of the Earth, the _____.
16. How many tectonic plates can be identified on Earth today? _____
17. Where does old seafloor sink back into the Earth to be recycled? _____
18. The world's last supercontinent is known as _____.
19. How many years ago did the supercontinent Pangaea begin breaking up?
_____ years ago
20. During the break-up of Pangaea, South America split off from _____, North America split off from _____, and Australia split off from _____ and drifted north.
21. As plates move across the Earth, crust and rock is dragged back down into the Earth at what type of zones? _____ zones
22. When continental crust collides with continental crust at convergent plate boundaries and no subduction occurs, what begins to form? _____
23. The formation of the Alps is the direct result of collision between what two continents? _____ and _____
24. The Himalayan mountain range formed as a result of the collision of what two tectonic plates? _____ and _____
25. The Grand Canyon is located in what state? _____
26. How long and wide is the Grand Canyon? _____ miles long, _____ miles wide
27. Describe the relationship between the age of rock layers and the depth travelled into the Grand Canyon. _____
28. 250 million years ago the Grand Canyon began to form when what two plates began to collide? _____ and _____