

FAULTLINE

SEISMIC SCIENCE AT THE EPICENTER

The breakup of Pangaea

Scientists in Antarctica have found fossils of tropical plants near the frozen South Pole. How could that happen? This illustration shows the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea 225-200 million years ago, according to Wegener's theory of continental drift. This theory explains not only fossils in Antarctica, but also the current shape of the continents.



Permian Period
225 million years ago



Triassic Period
200 million years ago

Can you see how the pieces of the earth fit together by looking at these maps? How was the Indian Subcontinent formed? How does this account for the large mountain range and high number of earthquakes in the area north of India?



Jurassic Period
135 million years ago



Cretaceous Period
65 million years ago



Present Day