



SHIFTING

Demonstrate evidence for plate tectonics.

Materials

Cookie sheet
2 Cups of dirt
1 Quart bowl
Spoon



Procedure

- Pour the dirt into the bowl.
- Add water and stir with a spoon until you have a thick mud.
- Pour the mud into the cookie sheet.
- Set the pan of mud in the sun for 2 to 3 days.
- Push down around the sides of the dried mud.

Results

The surface of the dried mud cracks!

Why?

The mud is broken into pieces with jagged edges, and all the pieces fit together. The continents of the earth, like the mud cake, look like large jigsaw-puzzle pieces. The coastlines of the continents have irregular shapes that appear to fit together. In the past, pressures within the earth may have broken a large landmass into the pieces that now form the separate continents on the earth.