**Letter to Cousin Assignment**

**National Geographic Colliding Continents**

People are commonly confused about the process of scientific theories (explanations of natural processes) as they are often supported by technical evidence or seem impossible because they happen over such a big period of time/space. Plate tectonics is a scientific theory that states the physical surface of the Earth radically changes over time.

On his last visit your cousin made the following statement:

“I don’t believe there was ever that Pangea continent scientists say happened when the Earth first formed. There is NO way to know anything about what the Earth back then was like because humans weren’t even alive then!”

Your task,

1. Write a letter to your cousin to explain to him that we do know what the Earth was like in the past (and how we know that).
2. Watch the movie and record evidence (notes in your notebook) to use in your argument.
3. Write a letter making a counter claim that explains to your cousin how he is wrong. (Be gentle you are still going to see him at the next family party).
4. Include a minimum of three pieces of concrete evidence (specific examples) to support your counter argument.
5. Include reasoning that explains the evidence (how do the scientists interpret the evidence).

**Final Draft:**

A typed letter to your cousin (including salutation –“Hello cuz” – and closing – see you next summer) Due next class.