

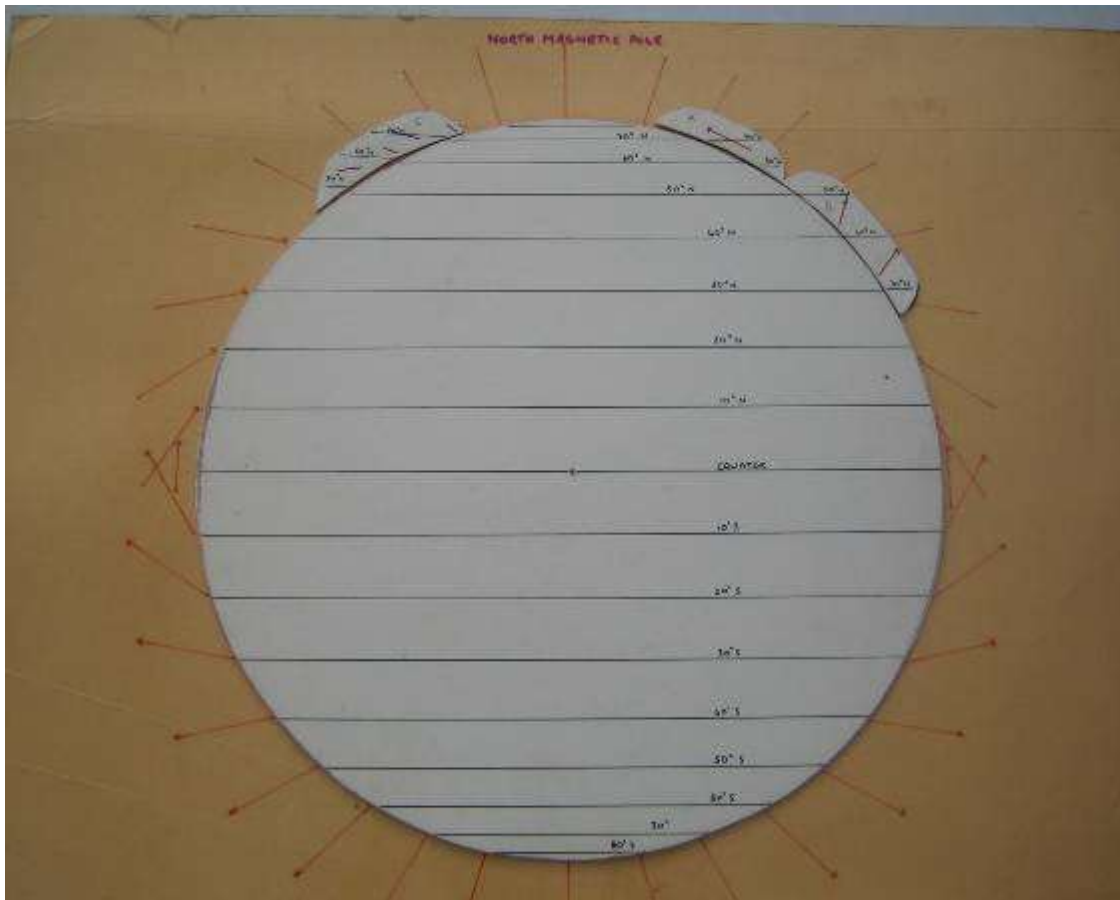
PALAEOMAGNETISM AND CONTINENTAL DRIFT

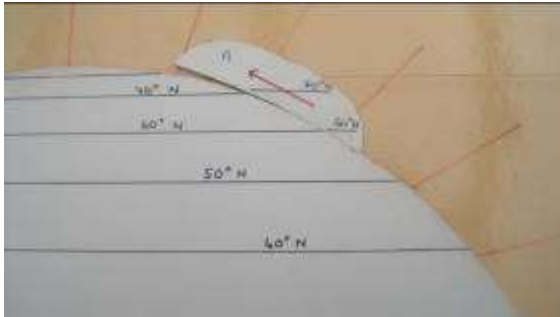
Palaeomagnetism and continental drift

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A disc, representing the world, made of thick card with the lines of latitude marked on rests on a board showing the magnetic dip for each latitude. Curved pieces of card which fit against the disc represent continents. These have lines showing their present day latitude. Other lines in different colours represent the palaeomagnetic dip of rocks found on the continents, different colours representing different ages. Students move the continents until the palaeomagnetic dips match modern magnetic dips thus showing the amount of movement of the continent.

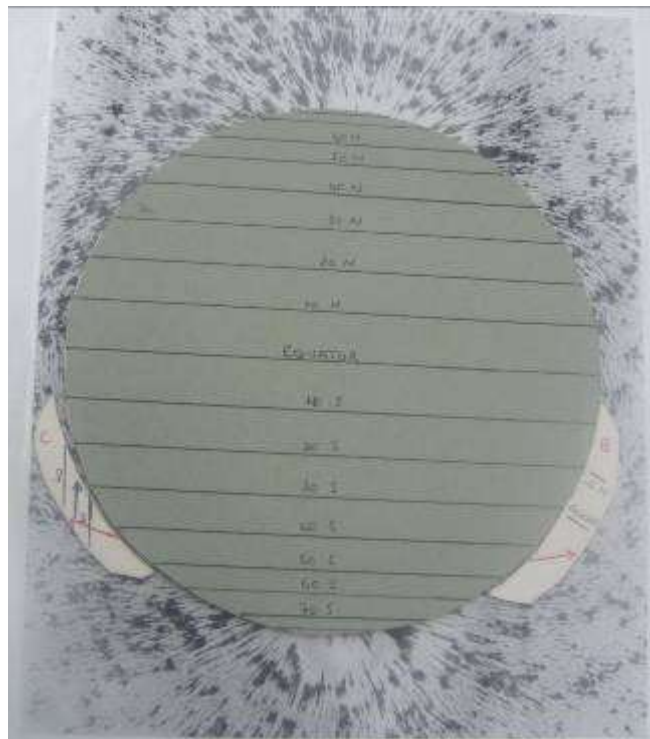
The disc is 38cm across and the board is 60cm by 60cm

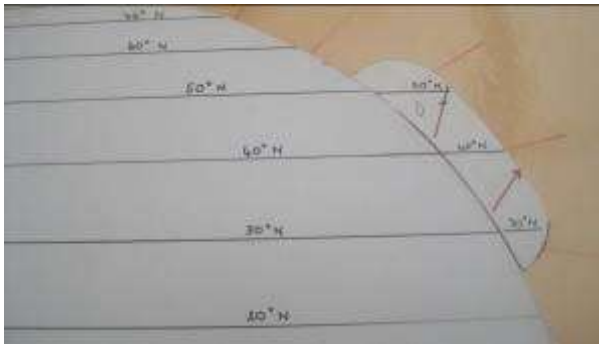




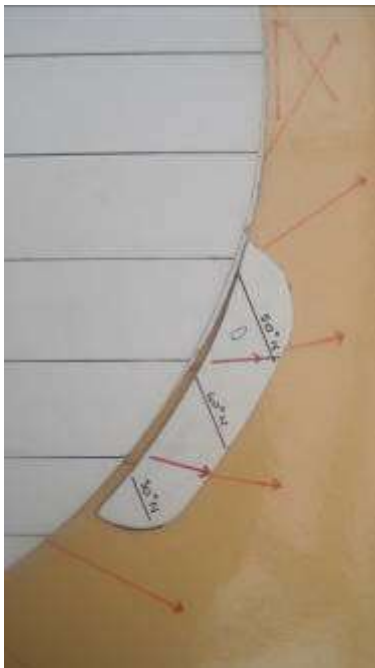
Beware the "continents" are easily mislaid.

A smaller version can be made from clear plastic and used on an overhead projector. I have also made A4 versions to be used by individual or pairs of students. The magnetic field is shown by a photograph of iron fillings over a bar magnet.

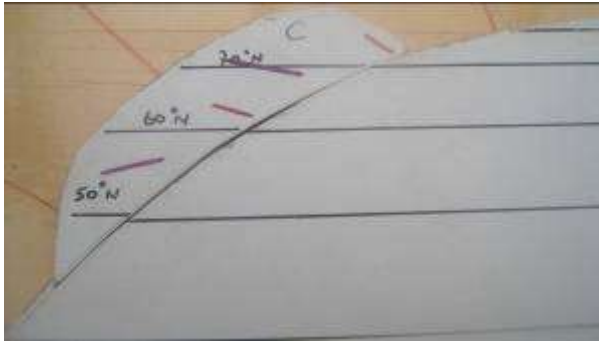




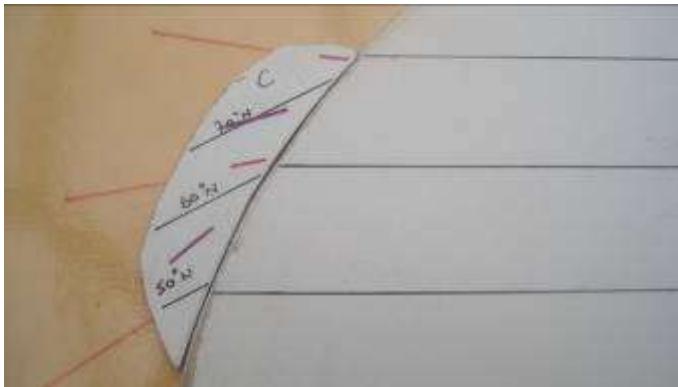
Present day position of the continent. Palaeomagnetic orientation indicates that the continent was at one time at a different latitude.



Original position of continent with palaeomagnetic orientation matching that of the magnetic field.



Present day position of the continent.



The red lines represent the palaeomagnetic orientation found in rocks 100m.a. old indicating that the continent was 20° north of the equator then.



The purple lines represent the palaeomagnetic orientation found in rocks 200m.a. and thus the centre of the continent was 10° north of the equator then