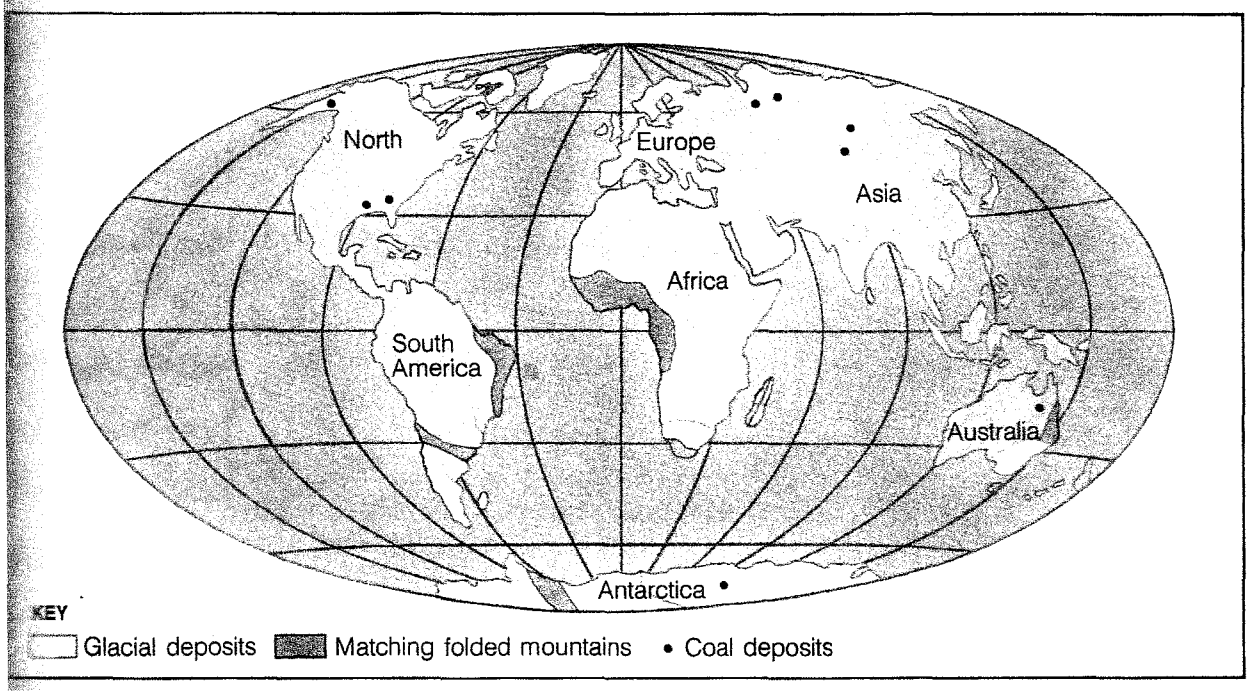

Other kinds of rock deposits—including salts, coal, and limestone derived from coral reefs—also provide evidence of changes in climate caused by continental drift. Today most salt deposits form in areas between 10° and 35° north and south of the equator. But salt deposits hundreds of millions of years old have been found as far north as Michigan. Coal forms in warm, swampy climates. Yet large coal deposits have been discovered in Antarctica. And limestone deposits from coral reefs, which form in tropical climates, have been found in western Texas, the northern central United States, and other places far from the equator.

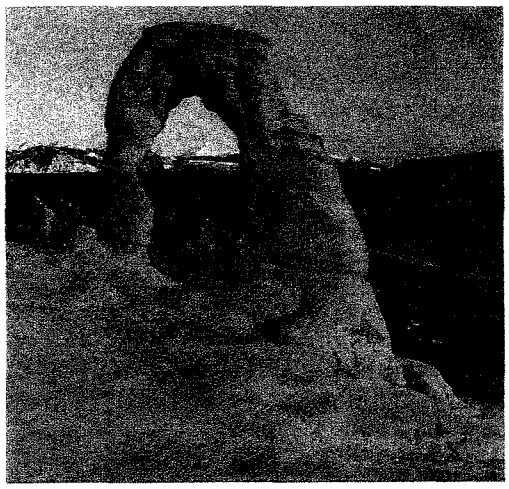

Figure 12–3 *The map shows some of the matching rock formations, which indicate the continents were once joined together and have since moved apart. Red sandstone, which makes up this arch in Utah, is formed only in deserts near the equator. What does this imply about the location of Utah in the past?*

12–1 Section Review

1. What is continental drift? Who first developed a scientific argument for continental drift?
2. How do scientists explain the existence of fossils of the same plants and animals on continents thousands of kilometers apart?

Critical Thinking—*Evaluating Theories*

3. "Wegener's lack of formal training in geology helped him to develop the theory of continental drift, but hurt him in getting his ideas accepted." What is the reasoning behind this statement? Do you agree? Why or why not?