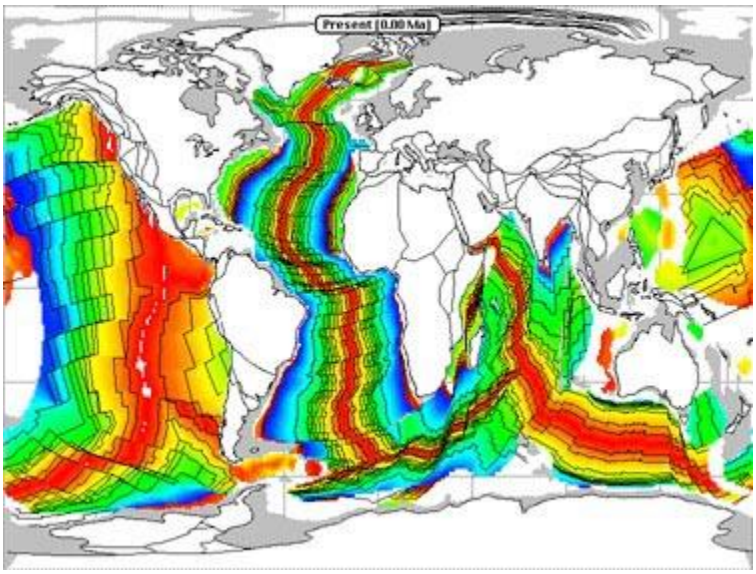
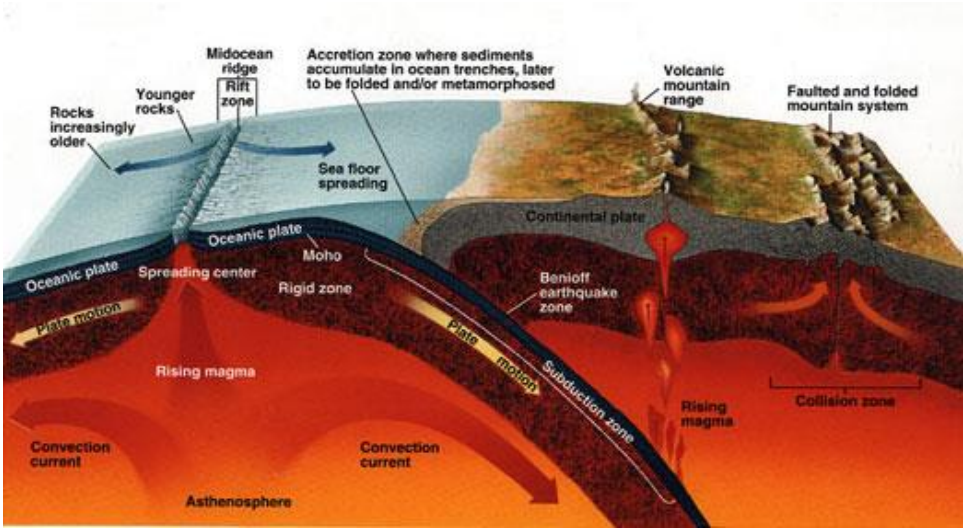
The idea of seafloor spreading was Harry Hess's. He believed that the reason for the continents spreading apart was because of new oceanic crust forming due to volcanic activity and then moving away from the ridge. The newest crust is found at the center, while the older crust is found at the outside. It occurs along mid-ocean ridges. Mid-Ocean ridges are large mountain ranges, that rise up from the ocean floor. The seafloor spreading showed that the crust was a mirror image of each other. This was called Magnetic Pole Reversal and it was shown in the ocean's basalt.




Midocean ridge
Rift zone
Younger rocks
Rocks increasingly older
Accretion zone where sediments accumulate in ocean trenches, later to be folded and/or metamorphosed
Volcanic mountain range
Faulted and folded mountain system
Sea floor spreading
Continental plate
Oceanic plate
Moho
Oceanic plate
Spreading center
Rigid zone
Benioff earthquake zone
Plate motion
Plate motion
Subduction zone
Rising magma
Collision zone
Rising magma
Convection current
Convection current
Asthenosphere

Questions

1. Where does Seafloor Spreading occur?
a. On land
b. The Mid-Ocean Ridge
c. A Rift Valley
d. Divergent Plate Boundary

2. Who discovered Seafloor Spreading?

3. The theory of Continental Drift and Seafloor Spreading was not proven until what was found?

4. How does the age of the basalt making up the sea floor confirm the idea of Seafloor spreading?

1. b
2. Harry Hess
3. The magnetic pole reversal in the basalt.
4. It had older basalt on the outside of the ocean, while younger basalt was found in the middle of the ocean.