

CONTINENTAL DRIFT & SEAFLOOR SPREADING

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 - The continents seem to fit together like a puzzle
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"Alfred Wegener" by Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Bildid #2005733. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alfred_Wegener.jpg#/media/File:Alfred_Wegener.jpg

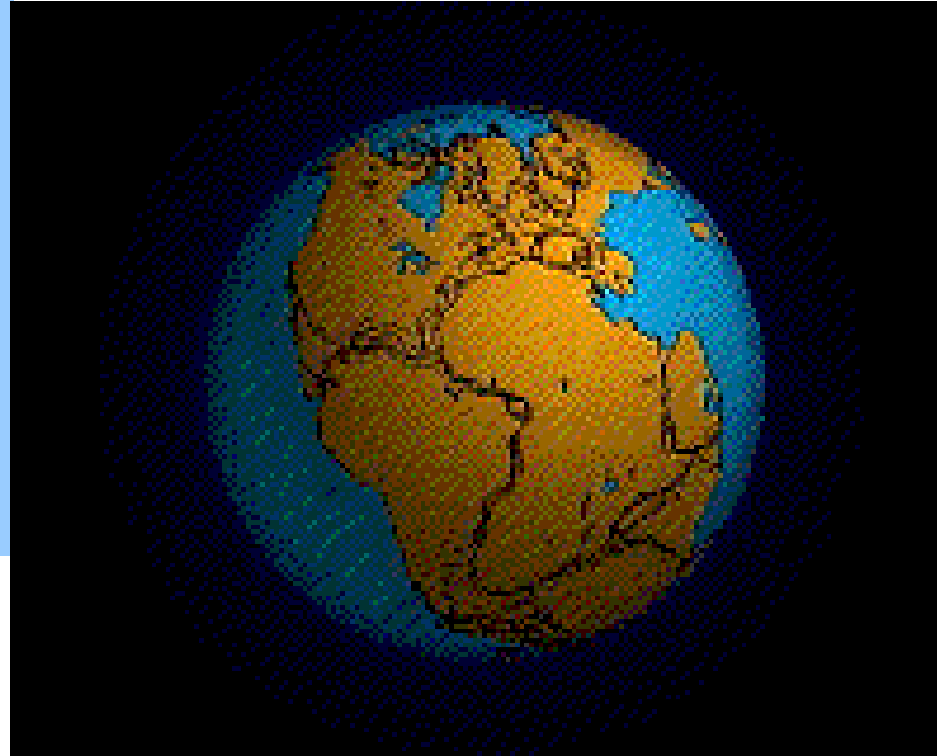
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- The original land mass he referred to as 'Pangea,' meaning 'all land.'

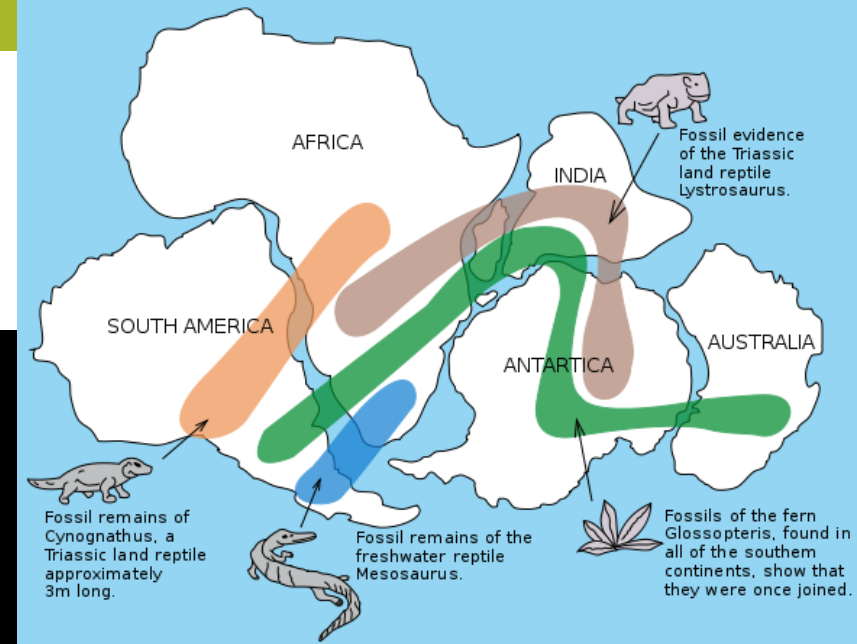




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Continental Drift

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- Climate change: Plants that live primarily in warmer regions found on multiple continents, including Antarctica. If Pangea were true, the continent would have been in a warmer climate allowing for that plant to survive.

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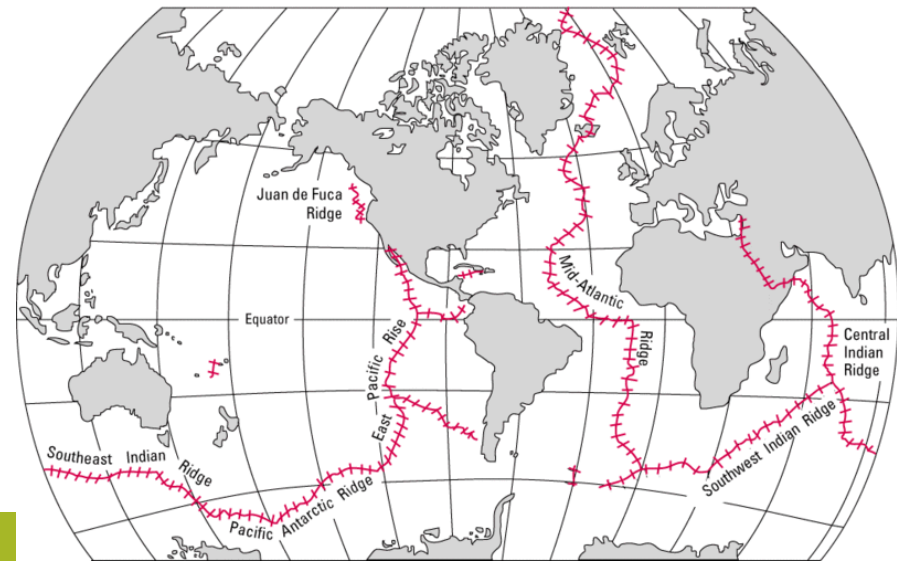
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- Wegener's idea was rejected by the scientific community and would not be revisited until after his death.

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[Amoeba People's Alfred Wegener Song](#)

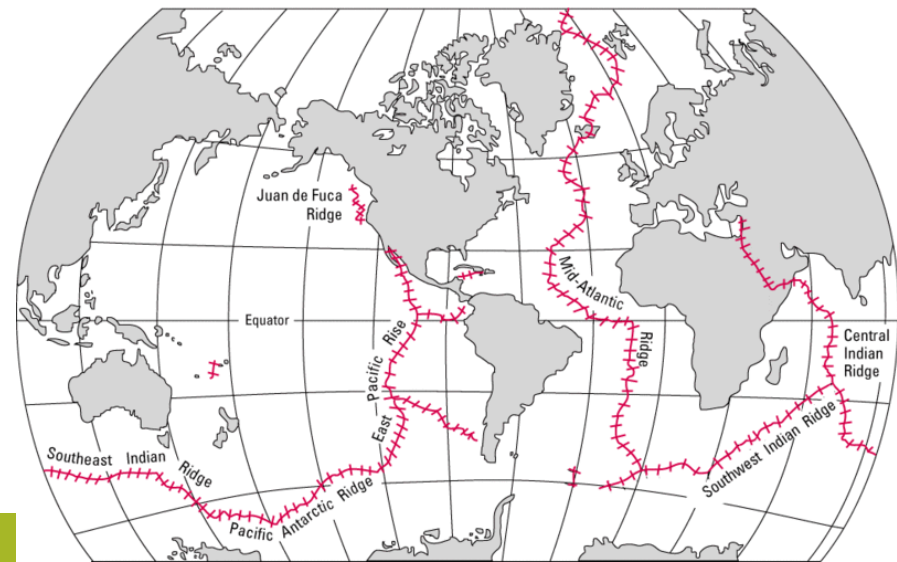
Part II: Seafloor Spreading

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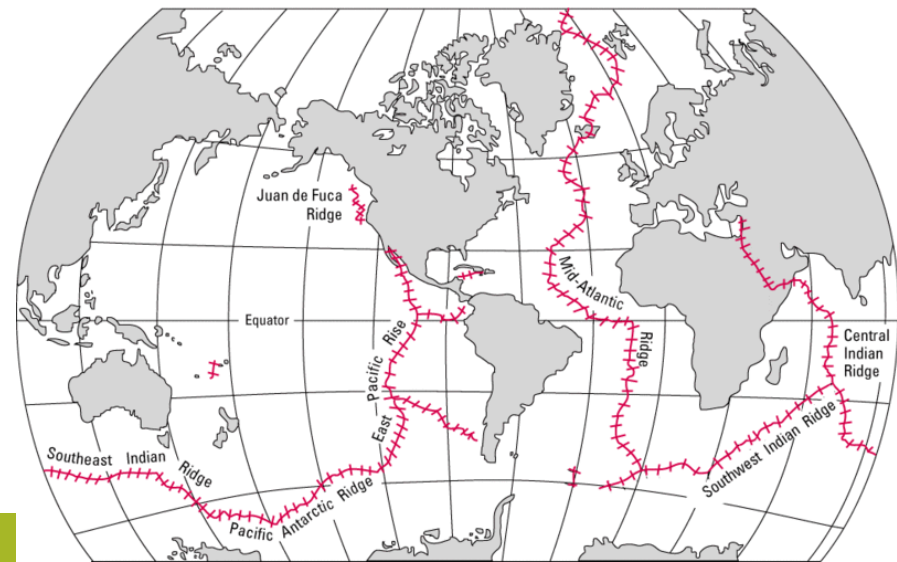
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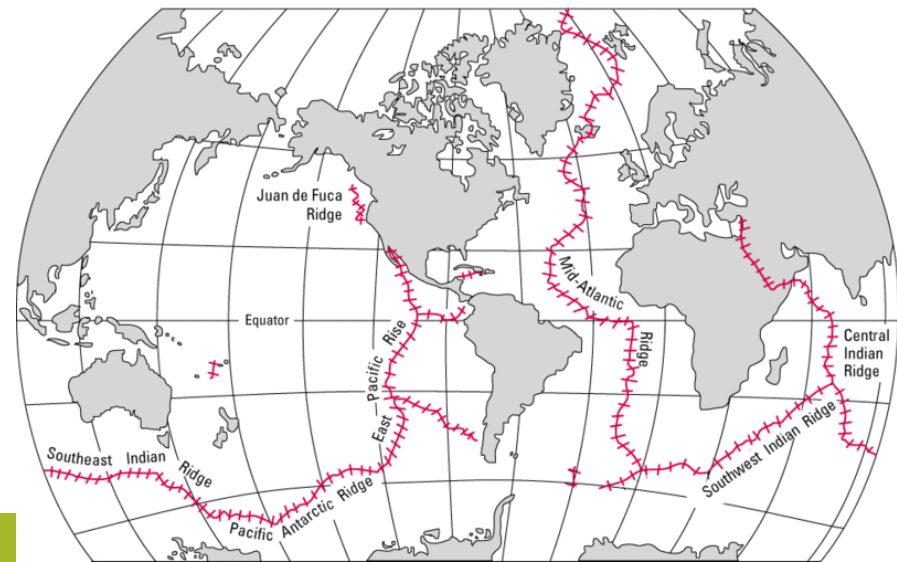
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 - These are now referred to as 'mid-ocean ridges.' We often refer to the one present in the Atlantic as the mid-Atlantic ridge.



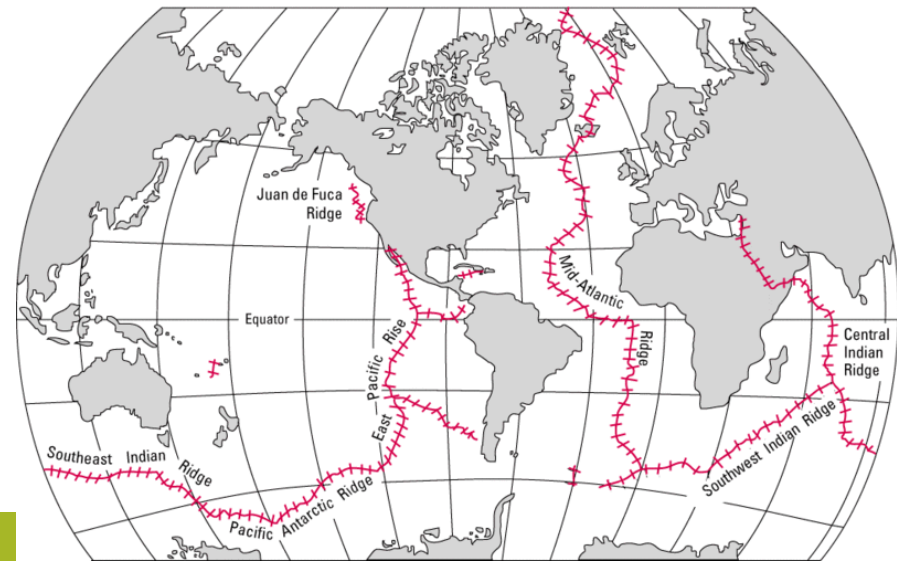
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- Where did these ridges come from?



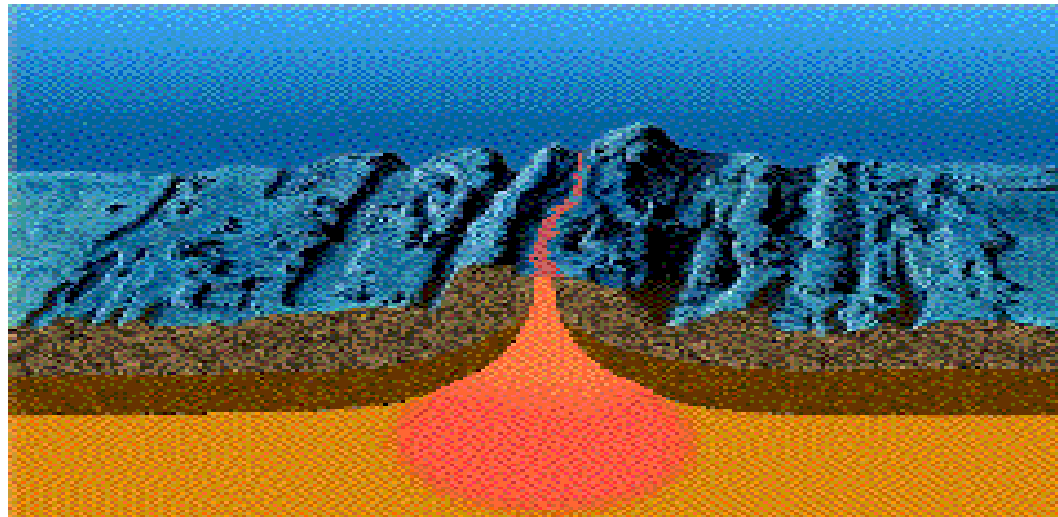
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- [Bill Nye: Seafloor Spreading Video](#)



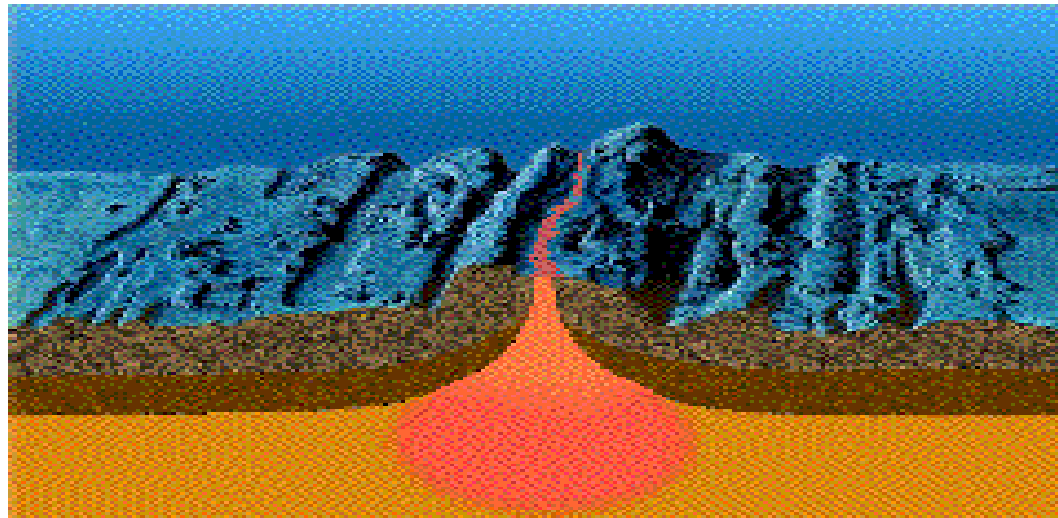
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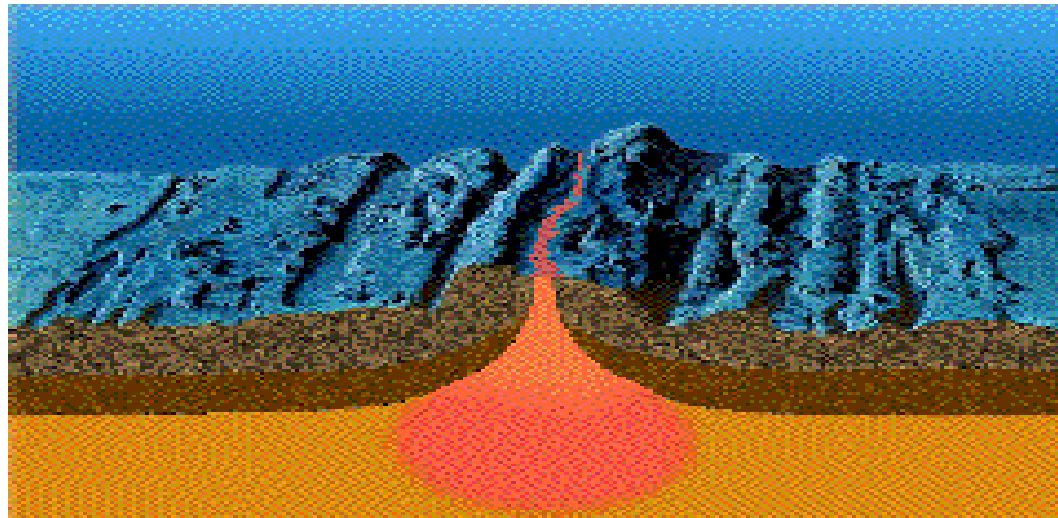
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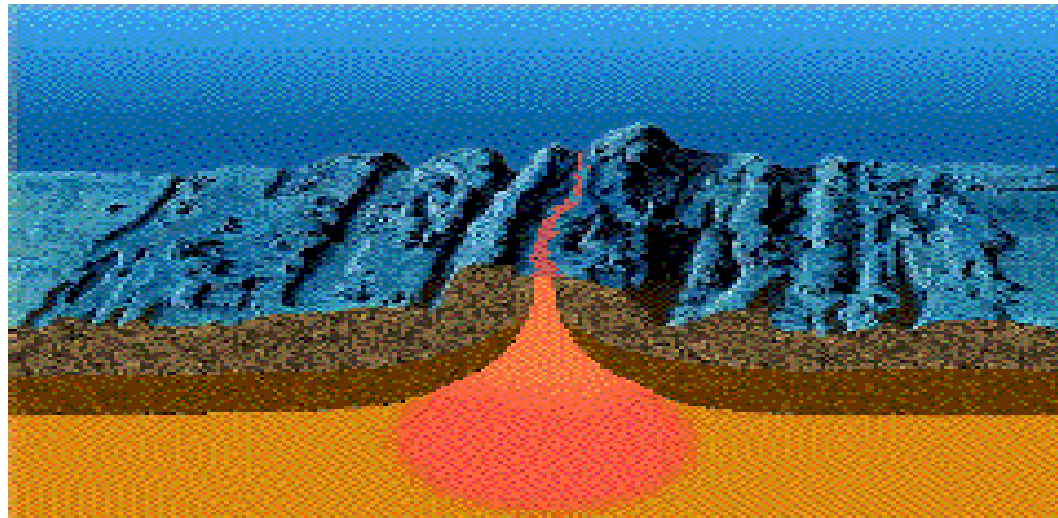
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- The seafloor then was forced outward from the opening, spreading the seafloor apart.



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- Scientists found that the youngest rocks are found along the mid-ocean ridge, and became increasingly older as you move outward toward the coastline.
- These findings supported both Hess's theory of seafloor spreading, and Wegener's theory of continental drift.



More Supporting Evidence: Magnetic Time Scale

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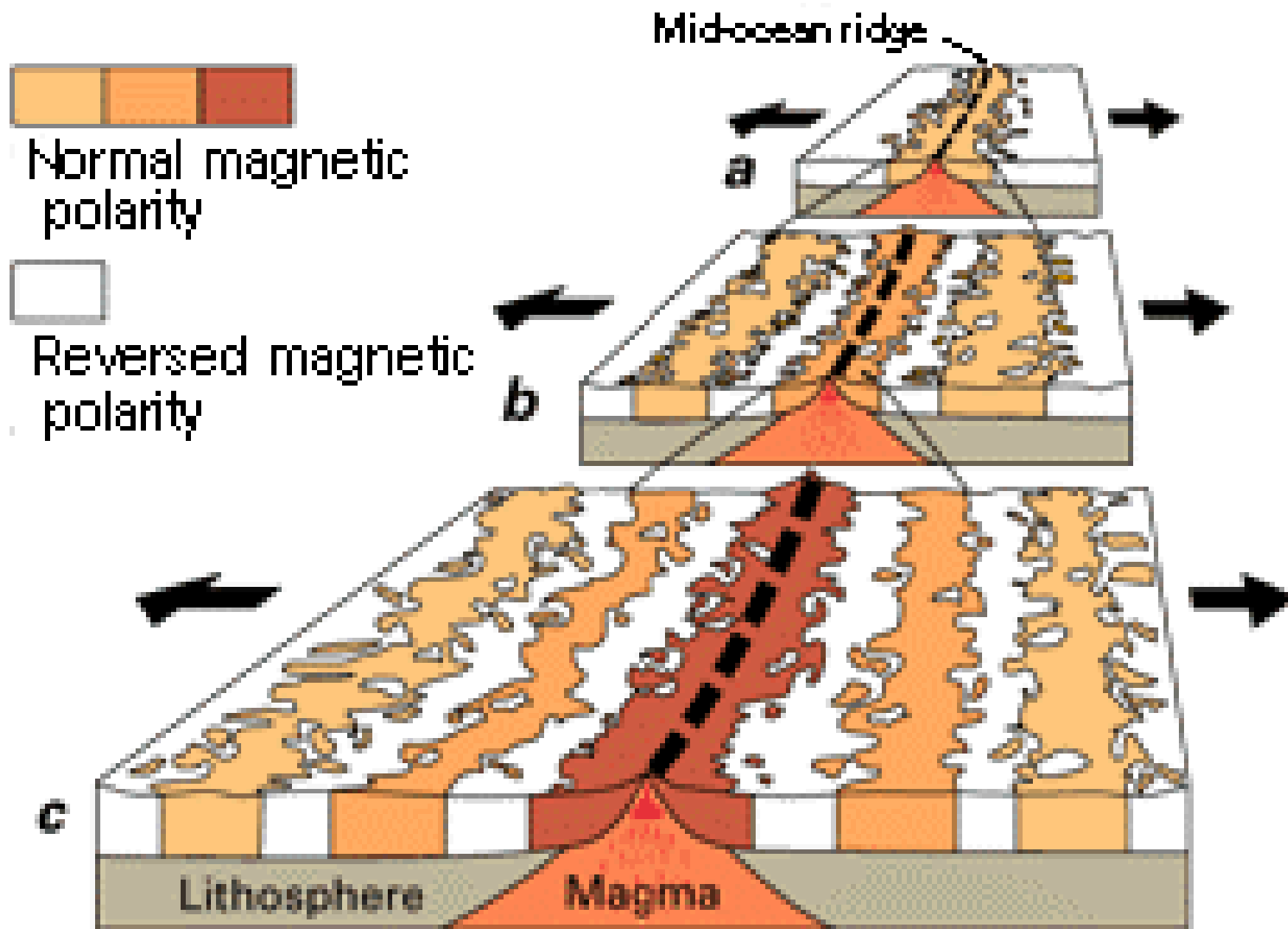
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- Scientists have determined that the Earth's magnetic poles have reversed multiple times.
- Looking at the sea floor iron-containing rocks, they 'flip' their polarity as you move away from the mid-ocean ridge.
- In other words, the sea floor spreading theory fits perfectly with another theory scientists have had for some time.



- Seafloor Spreading Song