

EQ: How did Harry prove Alfred's idea?

Harry Hess and Modern Evidence

Sonar - using sound waves to determine depths and sizes of objects

Revealed

Mid Ocean Ridges -

A long underwater mountain range where magma comes up from the mantle

Harry Hess -

Geologist and U.S. naval officer that came up with the idea that the continents move because the ocean floor is getting wider

Discovered

Seafloor Spreading

The seafloor grows outward from mid-ocean ridges as new crust is formed, pushing the continents along for the ride. This is the mechanism for continental drift.

Evidence for Seafloor Spreading

1. Age of ocean rocks - The fact that rocks get older at equal rates the farther away you get from a mid-ocean ridge is evidence of seafloor spreading.
2. Magnetic Striping - The fact that magnetic stripes on the ocean floor are identical on both sides of a mid-ocean ridge is evidence of seafloor spreading.

Seafloor Spreading Diagram

