Sea Floor Spreading Theory

In the 1940’s advances in technology allowed the founding of these phenomenon:

* Along the ocean floor is a continuous chain of underwater mountain ranges that wraparound edges of the continents
  + Discovered with Sonar technology
* The mountain chain, called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge has a rift at the centre forming a valley
  + Also called spreading ridges because new material comes up and pushed older material aside

**Diagram:**

**Evidence for Sea Floor Spreading:**

1. Ocean floor sediments are thicker away from the ridge (they accumulate over time)
2. Fossils embedded in the sediments get older as the distance from the ridge increases

**Diagram:**

1. Oceanic Rock beneath the sediments have patterns of normal and reverse polarity that are symmetrical on both sides of the rift (the magnetic field flips every half million years or so) This is called Paleomagnetic Striping

**Diagram:**