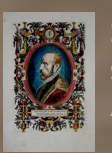


Abraham Ortelius

1527 A.D. – 1598 A.D.



Suggested the possibility of continental drift based on the similarities of the western African and eastern South American coastlines.



Robert Mantovani

1854 A.D. – 1933 A.D.



Thought earth expanded from internal thermal pressure, causing original single-continent crust to split and form separate continents.

Alfred Wegener

1880 A.D. – 1930 A.D.



Proposed theory of continental drift in 1912; published "The Origins of Continents and Oceans" in 1915.

Arthur Holmes

1890 A.D. – 1965 A.D.



Championed Wegener's ideas and based his estimate of the earth's age at 4.5 BY on the relative abundance of uranium isotopes.

Harry Hammond Hess

1906 A.D. – 1969 A.D.



Mapped the Pacific ocean floor, publishing data in 1962 that established the basics of seafloor spreading in support of Wegener's theories.

John Tuzo Wilson

1908 A.D. – 1993 A.D.



Early supporter of Wegener. Proposed the theory that the shield volcanoes of Hawaii formed as the Pacific plate passed over a hot spot.

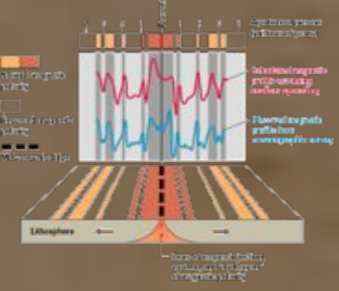
Alexander du Toit

1878 A.D. – 1948 A.D.

Provided substantiating evidence for Wegener's proposal based on analysis of geological structures in Africa and South America.

Morley-Vine-Matthews Hypothesis

1963 A.D.



Confirmed continental drift by examination of magnetic patterns in seabeds