



Abraham Ortelius
AD 1527 – AD 1598

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

Alexander du Toit
AD 1878 – AD 1948

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



Alfred Wegener
AD 1880 – AD 1930

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



Arthur Holmes
AD 1890 – AD 1965

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
AD 1906 – AD 1969

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



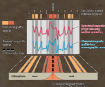
John Tuzo Wilson
AD 1908 – AD 1993

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



Robert Mantovani
AD 1854 – AD 1933

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



Morley-Vine-Matthews Hypothesis
AD 1963

Confirmed continental drift by examination of magnetic patterns in seabeds

