

Lesson 3-1 Vocabulary

- **Continental Drift**- the hypothesis that states that the continents once formed a single landmass, broke up, and drifted to their present locations.
- **Mid-ocean ridge**- a long, undersea mountain chain that has a steep, narrow valley at its center, that forms as magma rises from the asthenosphere, and that creates new oceanic lithosphere as tectonic plates move apart.
- **Sea-floor spreading**- the process by which new oceanic lithosphere forms as magma rises to Earth's surface and solidifies at a mid-ocean ridge.
- **Paleomagnetism**- the study of the alignment of magnetic minerals in rock, specifically as it relates to the reversal of Earth's magnetic poles; also the magnetic properties that rock acquires during formation.