

Brief Definition of Mid-Ocean Ridge

Mid-Ocean Ridge:

A divergent plate boundary where two active oceanic plates are pulling apart, separating and creating new oceanic crust. The hot lava from the inner Earth rises to the surface of the splitting ridge, cools and forms solid seafloor equally on both sides of the ridge. It is a continuous oceanic mountain range that runs through the middle parts of the Arctic, Atlantic, Southern Pacific and Indian oceans. Mid-ocean ridges are normally hundreds of kilometers wide and rise over 600m off the seafloor. As the oceanic crust is created, it spreads from the ridge at varying rates so that the oldest seafloor is always located at the greatest distance from the ridge.