

1: 12c. Hawaii-Emperor Seamount Chain

The Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain is a series of volcanoes and seamounts extending across the Pacific Ocean. The chain has been produced by the movement of the ocean crust over the Hawaiian hotspot, an upwelling of hot rock from the Earth's mantle.

The Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain is a mostly undersea mountain range in the Pacific Ocean that reaches above sea level in Hawaii. It is composed of the Hawaiian ridge, consisting of the islands of the Hawaiian chain northwest to Kure Atoll, and the Emperor Seamounts. The chain can be divided into three subsections. The first, the Hawaiian archipelago also known as the Windward isles, consists of the islands comprising the U.S. As it is the closest to the hotspot, this volcanically active region is the youngest part of the chain, with ages ranging from 0 to 5 million years. They contain many of the most northerly atolls in the world; Kure Atoll, in this group, is the northernmost atoll on Earth. The national monument, meant to protect the biodiversity of the Hawaiian isles, encompasses all of the northern isles, and is one of the largest such protected areas in the world. The proclamation limits tourism to the area, and called for a phase-out of fishing by 2012. Many of the volcanoes are named after former emperors of Japan. The seamount chain extends to the West Pacific, and terminates at the Kuril-Kamchatka Trench, a subduction zone at the border of Russia. However, Meiji Guyot, located to the north of Detroit Seamount, is likely somewhat older. In 1962, geologist John Tuzo Wilson hypothesized the origins of the Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain, explaining that they were created by a hotspot of volcanic activity that was essentially stationary as the Pacific tectonic plate drifted in a northwesterly direction, leaving a trail of increasingly eroded volcanic islands and seamounts in its wake. An otherwise inexplicable kink in the chain marks a shift in the movement of the Pacific plate some 47 million years ago, from a northward to a more northwesterly direction, and the kink has been presented in geology texts as an example of how a tectonic plate can shift direction comparatively suddenly. In a more recent study, Sharp and Clague interpret the bend as starting at about 50 million years ago. They also conclude that the bend formed from a "traditional" cause—a change in the direction of motion of the Pacific plate. However, recent research shows that the hotspot itself may have moved with time. Some evidence comes from analysis of the orientation of the ancient magnetic field preserved by magnetite in ancient lava flows sampled at four seamounts (Tarduno et al.). If the hotspot had remained above a fixed mantle plume during the past 80 million years, the latitude as recorded by the orientation of the ancient magnetic field preserved by magnetite paleolatitude should be constant for each sample; this should also signify original cooling at the same latitude as the current location of the Hawaiian hotspot. Instead of remaining constant, the paleolatitudes of the Emperor Seamounts show a change from north to south, with decreasing age. As the oceanic crust moves the volcanoes farther away from their source of magma, their eruptions become less frequent and less powerful until they eventually cease to erupt altogether. At that point erosion of the volcano and subsidence of the seafloor cause the volcano to gradually diminish. As the volcano sinks and erodes, it first becomes an atoll island and then an atoll.

2: Hawaiian Emperor seamount chain Facts for Kids | www.enganchecubano.com

The Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain is a mostly undersea mountain range in the Pacific Ocean that reaches above sea level in Hawaii.

This string of geographically remote and geologically unique volcanic islands makes up the U.S. Indeed, new volcanic rocks are being deposited at Mt. Kilauea on Hawaii today. The Hawaiian Islands are the exposed summits of the southernmost seafloor mountains, or seamounts, in the Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain. This 3,500 km line of volcanoes has formed over the last 70 million years as the Pacific Lithospheric Plate has moved to the northwest over a stationary magmatic hot spot in the mantle. Each individual volcano in the seamount chain formed as heat from the Hawaiian hot spot melted the overlying oceanic crust, and generated buoyant molten rock, or magma, which migrated upward and erupted onto the seafloor as lava. Many sequential lava flows then amalgamated to form seamounts composed mainly of an iron and magnesium-rich, or mafic, volcanic rock called basalt. Eventually, some of these seamounts grew tall enough to emerge above sea level. The Hawaiian-Emperor seamounts are examples of basaltic volcanoes with low-angle slopes and wide bases, called shield volcanoes. It has a total elevation of about 32,000 ft (10 km), and its base covers an area about the size of the U.S. Ongoing northwestward migration of the Pacific Plate at 3 cm/yr. As a seamount moves away from the hot spot, volcanic activity ceases, its rock base cools, and it begins to subside into the surrounding ocean crust. An aging oceanic island then sinks below sea level, and wave erosion levels off the volcanic peak, creating a flat-topped seamount called a guyot. Sometimes, coral reefs fringing a volcanic island continue to grow after the island has subsided below sea level, creating a ring-shaped carbonate island called an atoll, or annular island. English naturalist Charles Darwin first suggested this explanation for the formation of atolls during the voyage of the HMS Beagle from 1831 to 1845. By this mechanism of sequential island formation and subsidence, the Hawaiian hot spot has perforated the Pacific Plate with a line of volcanoes that are younger and higher toward the southeast. The Hawaiian-Emperor Chain propagated northward, beginning at least 70 million years ago, the age of the Meiji seamount at the Aleutian Trench. About 40 million years ago, a dogleg bend in the chain suggests a shift to northwestward plate motion, possibly due to the collision of the Indian subcontinent with Asia that created the Himalayan Mountains at that time. Since 40 million years ago, the Pacific Plate has moved northwest, bringing the hot spot to its present position beneath the southern shore of the island of Hawaii. Today, geologists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory at Mt. Kilauea, and visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, can observe active volcanic eruptions. The surface of fast-flowing lava streams cools to create aropy-textured skin called pahoehoe. Pahoehoe means "rope" in Hawaiian. After the surface of a flow has cooled, lava may continue to move beneath the surface in lava tubes. Sometimes, dissolved volatile gases escape during cooling, and the lava forms a jumble of sharp blocks called aa. When lava flows into the ocean, it cools very rapidly to form pillow basalt, the most common submarine basaltic texture. See also Volcanic eruptions; Volcanic vent Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

3: Why Is Hawaii Bent? | IFLScience

The Hawaiian-Emperor Chain is an example of a hotspot track - a trail of volcanic islands and seamounts created on a lithospheric plate as the plate slowly shifts over a spot of localized melting.

June 8, 2016, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres The Hawaiian-Emperor Chain is an example of a hotspot track - a trail of volcanic islands and seamounts created on a lithospheric plate as the plate slowly shifts over a spot of localized melting sourced by a jet of hot material rising from the deep mantle mantle plume. For more details see the release. GFZ The volcanic islands of Hawaii represent the youngest end of a 80 million years old and roughly 6,000 kilometres long mountain chain on the ground of the Pacific Ocean. The so-called Hawaiian-Emperor chain consisting of dozens of volcanoes is well known for its peculiar 60 degrees bend. The cause for this bend has been heavily debated for decades. One explanation is an abrupt change in the motion of the Pacific tectonic plate, the opposite model states southward drift of the mantle plume that has sourced the chain since its beginning 80 million years ago. Mantle plumes are not much influenced by surface motions of the tectonic plates that slowly move over them. Hence, long linear chains of plume-sourced volcanoes that get older and older with increasing distance from active hotspots can be tracked for hundreds to thousands of kilometres. In the Hawaiian hotspot trail, the Hawaii islands are the youngest in the chain that stretches nearly 6,000 km to Detroit seamount in the northwest Pacific, where volcanism occurred about 80 million years ago. An unprecedented 60 degrees bend characterizes the Hawaiian-Emperor Chain, dividing it into the older Emperor Chain and the younger Hawaiian Chain. The bend has been dated to 47 Ma Fig. The team affirms a hypothesis by the US-geophysicist Jason Morgan who proposed that already in the early 1960s. Jason Morgan was the first to use hotspots as a reference frame for global plate motions. In his model mantle plumes "which are manifested by hotspots at the surface" were considered fixed in the mantle, and the Hawaiian-Emperor Bend was attributed to a simple directional change of the Pacific plate motion Fig. But his plate model with fixed hotspots became challenged from the 1980s. Simulating the Hawaiian-Emperor Bend explains that the bend was formed through changes both of the direction of the lithospheric plates and some motion of the hotspot beneath the plates. That is now generally accepted, he adds, and mantle flow models predict that the Hawaiian hotspot has drifted slowly to the south. Moreover, this would imply that the Emperor Chain was created in just five million years and Detroit Seamount should only be 52 million years old Fig. This prediction is obviously falsified by the recorded Detroit Seamount island ages of about 80 Ma Fig. However, such a direction of motion is inconsistent with mantle convection models.

4: Hawaiian Island Formation | www.enganchecubano.com

The Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain is a mostly undersea mountain range in the Pacific Ocean that reaches above sea level in www.enganchecubano.com is composed of the Hawaiian ridge, consisting of the islands of the Hawaiian chain northwest to Kure Atoll, and the Emperor Seamounts: together they form a vast underwater mountain region of islands and intervening seamounts, atolls, shallows, banks and reefs.

GEOL - Lecture Notes Hawaiian-Emperor Seamount Chain The Hawaiian Island chain is one of the largest and most striking features on the surface of our planet, yet it is not related to any of the major types of plate boundaries. The Hawaiian Island chain consists not only of the main Hawaiian islands and adjacent French Frigate shoals, but are also connected to the Emperor Seamounts, a large, linear submarine range that runs northward to the Aleutian subduction zone where it disappears. This extensive line of volcanoes represents anomalous lava production and by inference a zone of excess heat in the underlying mantle. Mars has no plate tectonics, so hotspot volcanism results in building huge volcanoes that dominate the surface of the planet. The image of Earth uses submarine topography in combination with a satellite photo to see the seamounts beneath the ocean, otherwise only a few of the largest islands would be visible from space. The moving plates on the Earth prevent any single volcano from sitting over the hotspot long enough to build such huge edifices. Instead long linear chains of islands form as the Pacific plate moves over the Hawaiian Hotspot. The Hawaiian-Emperor chain shown in the figure on the left is the most famous and well-studied of the dozens of "hot spots" that dot our planet. The youngest islands lie to the southeast, with the Big Island being the newest. As we shall see, the islands and seamounts become progressively older towards the northwest, bending sharply toward the north about halfway along its length. The oldest seamounts are found at the northwest end, poised to plunge beneath the Aleutian volcanic arc, carried downward with the oceanic lithosphere as it is consumed. The oldest volcanoes yet to be consumed are just over 65 million years old, erupting just about the time that the last dinosaur sank to its knees or whatever and died. There may have been older volcanoes that have now been subducted--we have no way of knowing, since the geologic record has been erased. By contrast with the dinosaurs, that prowled the Earth for nearly million years, man is a relatively new addition to the biosphere. Indeed, modern man arrived while Haleakela was just reaching it prime, and since then the plates have moved less than a few hundred kilometers over the Hawaiian "hot spot". Volcanic island chains run like smoke on the wind and are generated as fresh lava from each "hot spot" builds massive mountains of basalt on the sea floor, through 5 kilometers of water, and then several more kilometers above the sea. In this lesson we investigate what can be learned from these linear mountain chains on the bottom of the sea. The image on the right shows some of the other "hot spots" scattered about the floor of the Pacific Ocean. It is intriguing, that portions of island chains of similar age are parallel to each other. This suggest that the "hot spots" themselves remain mostly fixed with respect to each other, otherwise the chains might be expect to be curvilinear, or trend in different directions as the "hot spots" generating them moved independantly. How do we know the ages of the underwater volcanoes making up the Hawaiian and Emperor Island seamount chains? The answer is radiogenic dating. The basalt that makes up the seamounts contain minerals with a relatively generous amount of the element potassium. This is especially true for the last lavas to be erupted as the seamount moves off the "hot spot". Some of the pottasium consists of K40, an unstable isotope that spontaneously decays to the inert gas Argon Ar Since argon is chemically inert, it is not generally found bound into minerals making up igneous rocks. As a rock ages, from the time it solidifies, argon atoms slowly build up, trapped in the crystal lattice, while the amount of unstable potasium slowly decreases at a very uniform, and predicitable rate. By carefully counting the numbers of each the age of a rock may be determined. On the average it takes about 1. Another way of looking at it is that a pile of 1. Needless to say, counting potassium and argon atoms requires some rather fancy equipment. The figure on the left shows the range of ages for specific volcanoes plotted as a function of distance along the island chain. Clearly the ages increase in a fairly uniform manner, but each volcano also has a range of ages, since individual edifices remain active for several hundred thousand years. Therefore, we must make due with the ages of the last lavas to be erupted. This is less than ideal, since there is

considerable variation in the lifetimes of individual volcanic seamounts. The incredibly striking linear progression in age along the chain is shown by the figure on the right. The best straight line through all of the data ironing out the bend, of course gives a tectonic plate velocity over the "hot spot" of about 8. Actually, I think maybe my hair grows more slowly than plates move, but that is a rare exception! Two lines fit the data somewhat better, as will always be the case. The two line solution suggests that recently tectonic motion has slowed somewhat with respect to rates prevalent in the Pacific more than 30 million years ago. One could just as easily, or perhaps more easily, fit a slowly varying curve to the data. This curve would indicated a small but significant slowing of plate velocity over the past 70 million years, a result that seems reasonable as the heat driving plate motion is slowly lost to space. The plates show a remarkable and abrupt bend about 44 millions years before the present. There has been much speculation regarding the cause for this bend. Geophysicists generally agree that the bend originated with an abrupt change in plate motion. Prior to 44 million years ago the plates were moving in a much more northerly direction. There is considerable less agreement, however, on just what caused this bend. Many scientists believe it was the collision of India with the Eurasian subcontinent, and event that has raised the Himalayan Mountains, that did the dirty deed. Other feel that it was the beginning of spreading on the Antarctic Ridge south of Australia that was the culprit. Whatever the cause, it is clear that there was a massive reorganization of plate motion nearly 50 million years ago. Perhaps it is even more amazing that in the past 65 million years there has been only one such bend. Even more remarkable is the observation that the straight portions of the chain are straight. As we shall see below, the configuration of the plate boundaries in the Pacific have changed dramatically during the lifetime of the Hawaiian hotspot. If, as many geophysicists believe, subduction drives tectonics, then how on earth can the straight parts be so straight and move at constant velocities for tens of millions of years? The answer to these questions remains a mystery! One other remarkable consistency remains to be discussed. The eruption rate for Hawaiian volcanoes has remained quite constant over most of the 65 million years of preserved activity. This is shown by the figure on the left, where cumulated volume is plotted against distance along the chain. For each distance, the volume plotted is the total amount of lava erupted previously by all older volcanoes. Over the last 65 million years, about 1 million cubic kilometers of lava has been produced. This is enough lava to fill a box kilometers on a side. The width of the Big Island is roughly kilometers to give you some idea of how much material this represents. If all this lava were somehow removed from the vicinity of the Hawaiian "hot spot", there should be a great hole in the bottom of the ocean nearly km in depth. Since there is no such hole, there must be some mechanism to replace the material lost and erupted to the surface. It should be noted that for the 10 million years following the bend, very little lava erupted. This is a bit of a bad situation for the previous inhabitants of the islands, since there is very little other dry land for thousands of kilometers. Indeed, almost all of the previous life must have been exterminated, so that the current flora and fauna must have arrived more recently.

Looking Back in Time At present the age of the sea floor beneath the Big Island is roughly 95 millions years old. This means, that it was created at a mid-oceanic ridge 95 million years ago before being rafted to the central Pacific Ocean. This is shown in the figure on the left, where the difference in age between the volcanos and the underlying seafloor is plotted with distance along the island chain. Curiously, this age difference does not change as far back in time as the bend, demonstrating that the active volcanoes were being built on sea floor somewhat more than 90 million years old for the past 44 million years. After the bend, however, the picture changes. From the bend north along the Emperor chain the age difference steadily decreases until it is less than 10 million years for the oldest known volcanos in the chain. This means that these volcanos were being erupted on sea floor that was much younger than is the case today. If the trend is continued back to about 80 million years, it would appear that the "hot spot" was building volcanoes on ocean floor of the same age. How can this be? The answer, clearly, is that roughly 80 million years ago the Hawaiian "hot spot" was collocated with an oceanic ridge, much as the Iceland "hot spot" is today. But which ridge was it near. Current ocean floor beneath Hawaii was constructed at the Mid-Pacific rise just off the west coast of the Americas. To answer these questions we must reconstruct the configuration of the Pacific ocean floor going back nearly million years, a daunting task indeed. The situation during the past few million years, an eyeblink for a geologist, is shown in the figure on the left. The plate is moving in a northwesterly direction, leaving a trail of

distinct volcanos on the sea floor. The H marks the current "hot spot" position. Similarly, the Yellowstone "hot spot" is shown by a large block labelled with the letter Y. The image on the right shows the situation about 43 million years ago, just after the platemotion reorganized into the present configuration. Note the Emperor chain trending toward the North. There is also a small piece of ridge off the Pacific Northwest known as the Kula Ridge. This ridge has since been subducted beneath Alaska, but then it was actively making oceanic lithosphere. The next image on the left shows the situation about 56 million years ago. The oldest volcanos of the chain that still exist today were then only about 10 million years old. The Kula Ridge can now be seen to be much closer to the "hot spot", and consequently the age of the sea floor at the "hot spot" is much younger as discussed previously. The trend continues with the image on the right. Again, the Kula ridge is quite close to the Hawaiian "hot spot", and the ocean floor beneath the growing volcanoes is very young. This image shows the configuration when the oldest volcanoes that still exist today were just being formed. Remember, this is also the time of the extinction of the dinosaurs. Going back still further, roughly to 80 million years before the present, the Kula Ridge lies south of the "hot spot", and will shortly be passing it as it moves north. The idea that ridges and trenches move around so dramatically might seem strange to you. Somehow one gets the idea in high school or introductory geology courses that these things are relatively fixed with respect to each other. Unlike their cousins, the "hot spots", this is clearly not the case.

5: Daikakuji Guyot - Wikipedia

The Hawaiian Emperor seamount chain is a well-known example of a large seamount and island chain created by hot-spot volcanism. Each island or submerged seamount in the chain is successively older toward the northwest.

6: Plate loss gave chain of Pacific islands and seamounts a bend | Science News

The southeastern portion of the Hawaiian-Emperor Chain is called the Hawaiian Island/Seamount Chain, and runs southeast to northwest for about 1, miles (2, km). The upper portion of the Hawaiian-Emperor Chain runs almost due north for about 1, miles (2, km), and is called the Emperor Seamount Chain.

7: Hawaiianâ€“Emperor seamount chain | Revolv

About two-thirds of the way across the Pacific we will cross the submerged, northern extension of the Hawaiian islands, called the Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain. The Hawaiian islands are an above sea level expression of a chain of seamounts, which includes Midway and Wake Islands.

8: Hawaiianâ€“Emperor seamount chain - Wikipedia

The "Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain" is a mostly undersea mountain range in the Pacific that reaches above sea level in Hawaii. It is composed of the Hawaiian ridge, consisting of the islands.

9: Hawaiianâ€“Emperor seamount chain - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Five guyots and five seamounts are shown from the southernmost end of the Emperor chain, an area called the Hawaiianâ€“Emperor bend or the Milwaukee Seamount Group in the north central Pacific Ocean.

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