How did people probably imagine the sea floor before it was investigated?

Our knowledge of the oceans a hundred years ago was confined to the two-dimensional shape of the sea surface and the hazards of navigation presented by the irregularities in the depth of the shallow water close to the land.

The open sea was deep and mysterious, and anyone who gave more than a passing thought to the bottom confines of the ocean probably assumed that the sea bed was flat.

Sir James Clark Ross had obtained a sounding of over 2,400 fathoms in 1839, but it was not until 1869, when H. M. S. Porcupine was put at the disposal of the Royal Society for several cruises, that a series of deep soundings was obtained in the Atlantic and the first samples were collected by dredging the bottom.

Shortly after this, the famous HMS. The  Challenger expedition established the study of the sea floor as a subject worthy of the most qualified physicists and geologists.

A burst of activity associated with the laying of submarine cables soon confirmed the Challenger’s observation that many parts of the ocean were two to three miles deep, and the existence of underwater features of considerable magnitude.

Today, enough soundings are available to enable a relief map of the Atlantic to be drawn and we know something of the great variety of the sea bed’s topography.

Since the sea covers the greater part of the earth’s surface, it is quite reasonable to regard the sea floor as the basic form of the crust of the earth, with, superimposed upon it, the continents, together with the islands and other features of the oceans.

The continents form rugged tablelands that stand nearly three miles above the floor of the open ocean.

From the shore line, out to a distance which may be anywhere from a few miles to a few hundred miles, runs the gentle slope of the continental shelf, geologically part of the continents.

The real dividing line between continents and oceans occurs at the foot of a steeper slope.

This continental slope usually starts at a place somewhere near the 100-fathom mark and in the course of a few hundred miles reaches the true ocean floor at 2,500–3,500 fathoms.

The slope averages about 1 in 30, but contains steep, probably vertical, cliffs, and gentle sediment-covered terraces, and near its lower reaches there is a long tailing-off which is almost certainly the result of material transported out to deep water after being eroded from the continental masses.

He means that we were simply aware of the distances forwards and sideways (that is, as far as we can see), not the third dimension, the depth of the sea.

Immediately between the continental slope and the true ocean floor lies a long ‘tailing-off’ of material transported out to deep water after being eroded from the continents.

Shallow channels and surface rocks are just two of the hazards of navigation in this small harbor.

They are dredging the harbor channels to make them deeper.

To make underwater exploration easier, it might soon be possible to build submarine research stations.

It is thought that the crater was formed by a meteorite of considerable magnitude hitting the Earth at some time in the distant past.

If you’re going walking or climbing in the mountains, a relief map is essential.

Compared with the size of our planet, the Earth’s crust is not very thick.

The artist painted a country scene first in oils and then superimposed it on a photo negative of a woman’s face.

The effect was quite surprising.

The northern face of the mountain is so steep that it is almost vertical.

The performance was finally over with the sound of applause tailing off as the actors left the stage.

Many of the stones are so eroded that it is impossible to read the hieroglyphs carved on them.

A hundred years ago, people simply assumed the seabed was flat.

A sounding of 2,400 fathoms was obtained in 1839, but it wasn’t until 1869 that deep soundings were obtained in the Atlantic by the Royal Society from H. M. S. Porcupine and samples of the sea-bed were collected.

The legitimate study of the sea-bed was established shortly after that by the HMS Challenger expedition, which observed that parts of the ocean were 2–3 miles deep and that there were large underwater features.

Today, we have a relief map of the Atlantic and know about the topography of the seabed.

We can regard the sea-bed as the basic crust of the Earth, with continents standing nearly three miles above the floor.

The twentieth century has seen greater progress in many fields than in any other period in history.

While we have certainly exploited a lot of land, we have still not explored all the land above sea level.

However, it is not surprising that very little of the seabed has been explored.

Indeed, the intensive study of the sea and the sea bed is comparatively recent.

And since the sea accounts for a very large percentage of the Earth’s surface, perhaps we should be spending much more time and money on studying it in detail.

The sea itself is a tremendous source of power.

We have only just begun harnessing the tides to provide electricity, but the energy is there just waiting to be used.

The tides and waves contain vast amounts of energy, which we must be able to use.

The sea is a source of food, too, of course.

Men have taken fish from the sea for thousands of years, but it is only now that plankton is being seen as a source of protein to feed the growing world population.

And the whole idea of ‘cultivating’ the seabed is actively being investigated.

As a source of wealth, the sea has already begun to be exploited, but only in the past few years.

We can now obtain minerals from the sea, and take fossil fuels from it, as in the North Sea, where oil and gas are both being extracted from under the sea.

Following the pioneer work of the French underwater explorer and marine biologist, Jacques Cousteau, perhaps the time will come when we will set up permanent villages under the sea, or even towns and cities that people can live in.

If that ever happens, we will certainly be using the sea to its greatest potential.

I only understood what had happened when I read the report in the newspaper.

I didn’t understand what had happened until I read the report in the newspaper.

It was not until I read the report in the newspaper that I understood what had happened.

The plane will only take off again when the engine has been checked.

The plane will not take off again until the engine has been checked.

Tom only got home at four o’clock this morning.

Tom didn’t get home until four o’clock this morning.

I shall return this book to the library only after I have read it.

I shan’t return this book to the library until I have read it.

He agreed to deliver the goods only after I had paid for them.

It wasn’t until I had paid for the goods that the man agreed to deliver them.

Since the sun’s shining, I think I’ll go for a walk.

We’ve been waiting for them since six o’clock, and they still haven’t arrived.

In front of the hotel is a perfectly flat sandy beach.

You have to adjust it so that the front is level with the back.

Waste paper is one of the biggest problems in rubbish disposal.

This old house may be charming, but the disposition of the rooms is hardly ideal.

Verity has a sweet disposition.

Nothing particularly worthy of notice occurred during the two following days.

I won’t waste any more of your valuable time.

Overnight reports of an explosion were officially confirmed the next day.

The police assured us that everything that could be done had been done.

North Cornwall has a rugged coastline with high cliffs.

The beggar slept on a pile of ragged blankets.

The little boat headed out into the open sea and was soon lost to view in the large waves.

Because the weather was so beautiful, we decided to have the party in the open air, not indoors.

Mathematics was my worst subject at school.

Here is the news.

Physics is a science concerned with natural forces such as light, heat, movement, and so on.

Billiards is not a game that I enjoy much.

The police and the ambulance arrived shortly after the accident happened.

Shortly before we were due to leave, we received a telephone call warning us not to go.

I know I’m already a little late, but I’ll be there shortly.

A burst of activity soon confirmed the existence of underwater features of considerable magnitude.

I never enjoy feature films.

The present world tour of the President of the United States is featured prominently in all of today’s newspapers.

I hardly recognized him when I saw him again: his features have changed over the years.

It is thought that about 1 in 10 of the population will have problems with their eyesight before they are 50.

The chances of your having an accident between home and school are about 1 in 1,000.

A hundred years ago, probably no one thought the deep ocean floor was irregular.

The HMS Challenger expedition gave the study of the ocean floor scientific respectability.

Continents and islands are standing on the Earth’s crust.

The continental slope gradually stretches out to the seabed.

It was only in 1869 that H.M.S. Porcupine obtained soundings.

The sea floor became a subject worth studying.

Submarine cables were laid across the Atlantic.

It is reasonable enough to regard the sea floor as the Earth’s crust.

The Royal Society was allowed the use of the HMS Porcupine.

A burst of activity connected with the laying of submarine cables.

Together with the islands and other features of the oceans.

After being worn away from the continental masses.