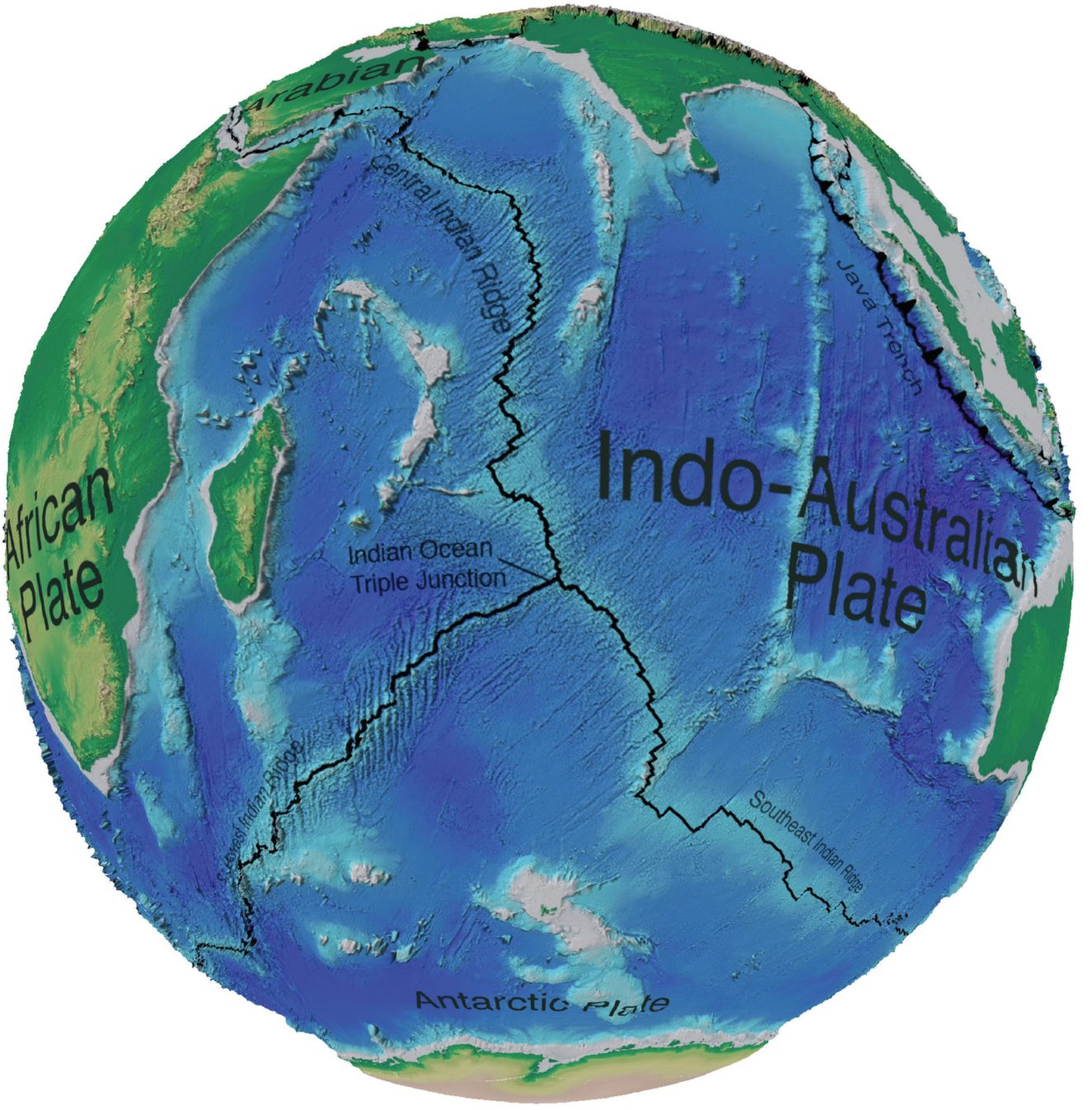

The bathymetry of the Indian Ocean reveals the triple junction between the African Plate, the Indo-Australian Plate, and the Antarctic Plate. Fracture zones record the direction of spreading at these 3 plate boundaries. The large-scale bathymetry is dominated by cooling and subsidence of the plates as they slide away from the ridge axes. (Data derived from sparse ship soundings and dense coverage from the GEOSAT (US Navy 1985) and ERS-1 (ESA 1994) satellite altimeters.)