Layers of the Earth



Created by Marie @ The Homeschool Daily

What do scientists use to understand the interior of the Earth?

- Scientists record and study <u>seismic waves</u> to help them understand the interior of the Earth.
- Seismic waves are caused by <u>earthquakes</u>, explosions, and ocean movements.



There are two types of seismic waves.



Pressure wave (p-wave) which moves through liquids and solids



<u>Shear wave (s-wave)</u> which won't travel through liquids

S WAVES





P waves travel through solid and liquid, but S waves do not travel through liquid. By observing seismic waves, scientists deducted that Earth's outer core is liquid.

What are the layers of the Earth?

- Through studying seismic waves, scientists have determined 5 distinctive layers.
 - Crust
 - Upper Mantle
 - Lower Mantle
 - Outer Core
 - Inner Core



What is the crust?

- The solid outer layer of the Earth that we live on
- It is the thinnest layer
- It is either continental crust or oceanic crust
- Temperature is around 22 C



What is Continental Crust?

- Continental crust is the ground we walk on
- 8km to 70km thick
- Mostly made of granite



What is Oceanic Crust?

- Oceanic crust is land under the oceans
- 8km thick
- More dense than continental crust due to pressure compacting it
- Mainly made of basalt





What is the upper mantle?

- It is more solid near the surface since temperatures are cooler.
- As depth increases, it is molten rock or magma.
- Its texture is like a thick fluid
- Temperature: 1,400 – 3,000 C

Includes distinctive regions: lithosphere and asthenosphere



What is the lithosphere?

- It is the solid rock layer at the top of the Earth.
- It includes the crust and the top part of the upper mantle.



What is the asthenosphere?

- This is the more pliable layer under the lithosphere.
- It is thought to be molten rock, or magma
- Convection currents in this layer are thought to move the solid rock above it



What is the lower mantle?

- Surrounds the outer core
- The rock is hot enough to melt, but is solid because of the immense pressure
- Temperature 3,000 C



What is the outer core?

- Liquid layer of iron, nickel, sulphur, and oxygen around the inner core
- Its movement around the inner core is thought to create our planet's magnetic field
- Temperature 4,000 - 6,000 C





What is the inner core?



- Hot dense ball of mostly iron
- It is spinning
- Hot enough to melt metal, but stays a solid due to the immense pressure surrounding it
- Temperature 5,000 to 6,000 C
- 2500 km wide

Let's REVIEW what we learned!















6.) This layer is hotter than the upper mantle but is solid due to the immense amount of pressure.

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7.) This layer can be continental or oceanic.

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8.) This layer is a dense solid ball made of iron.

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9.) This layer is solid and the thinnest layer. It is the one we walk on.

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10.) This layer contains magma. It has a texture of thick liquid.

10.) This layer contains magma. It has a texture of thick liquid.

II.) This liquid layer surrounds the inner core.

II.) This layer is solid and the thinnest layer. It is the one we walk on.

12.) This layer is primarily made up of granite and basalt.

12.) This layer is primarily made up of granite and basalt.







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