

The Earth's Layers

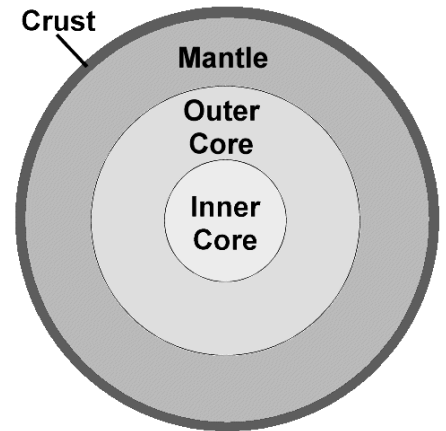
It may seem that the inside of the earth is just one solid chunk of rock. But that is not so. Scientists tell us that the earth is made up of 4 main layers.

The top layer that we live on is called the earth's **crust**. It is called the crust, not only because it is the top layer, but also because it is so thin. It is 4000 miles from the surface of the earth to the center. But the earth's crust is only about 10 miles thick. It is made up of rock and other loose material.

The next layer is the **mantle**. The mantle is 1,800 miles thick and is the most massive of the earth's layers. It is made of super-heated rock. Most of the mantle is solid rock, but in places the rock so hot that it flows—moving slowly like a very thick liquid. This hot liquid rock is called *magma*.

Under the mantle is the earth's **outer core**. The outer core is made up of hot liquid metals. It is about 1,400 miles thick.

Near the earth's center is the **inner core**. The pressure in the inner core is so great that the metals are squeezed together and are not able to move around as a liquid. The inner core is about 800 miles thick.



1. Is the earth one chunk of solid rock? _____ Explain your answer.
2. What is the layer of earth which we live on called? _____ Why?
3. What is the hot liquid rock that's found inside the earth called?

In which layer of the earth is it usually found?

4. What material makes up the earth's outer and inner core? _____

What is the difference between the earth's inner core and its outer core?