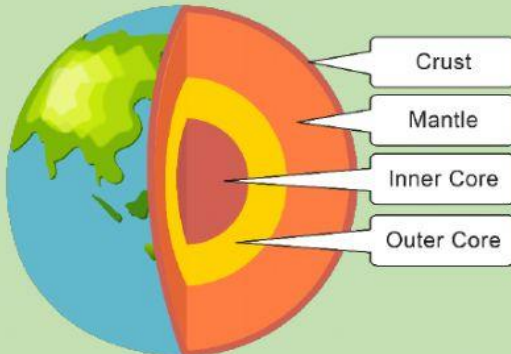


LAYERS OF THE EARTH



Identify and compare the layers of the Earth.



We live on Earth's crust which is about 32 km (20 ml) thick under the surface of the continents and about 8 km (5 ml) thick under the ocean floor.

Earth's outermost layer is the floor **crust**. The layer directly beneath crust is the **mantle**. The innermost layer is the core. The core has an inner core and an outer core. The **inner core** is mainly **iron** and **nickel**.

It is extremely hot and metals would usually melt at that extreme heat. But the inner core is solid because of the pressure and weight of the other layers around it. The crust is the thinnest layer of the earth. It is made up of rocks with loose dirt covering the rocks. The mantle is the thickest layer. Some of the upper mantle is melted because of the heat; however, great pressure keeps a part of the mantle solid.

Scientists study the crust by drilling to get samples from it. The other layers are studied from materials taken after an earthquake and materials that come to the surface after a volcanic eruption.

The Earth's layers are made up of several types of rocks.

Igneous rocks: these rocks are formed from volcanic eruptions.

They are formed from magma that has cooled beneath the Earth's surface.



Sedimentary rocks: these are formed over many years where sediments are compressed into rocks. They are made from sediments like sand, seashells, sandstone and clay.



Metamorphic rocks: these types of rocks are hard to find, they are formed deep beneath the Earth's surface.

