Layers of the Earth

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: The Earth has layers: the **crust** (outside), the **mantle** (middle) and the **core** (centre), which has an **outer core** and an **inner core**.

Apple model: skin = crust · fruit = mantle · seeds in the middle = core

Inside the Earth



If you could cut the Earth in half like an apple, you would see that it is made of layers.

The outside layer is the **crust**. It is the thinnest layer, like the skin on an apple. All the land and the ocean floors are part of the crust. It is the only layer where people, plants and animals live.

Below the crust is the **mantle**. It is the thickest layer. The mantle is very hot rock. Some of it moves very, very slowly, like thick, warm toffee.

At the centre of the Earth is the **core**. The **outer core** is made of hot, liquid metal. The **inner core** is a solid ball of metal. It is the hottest part of the Earth, about as hot as the surface of the Sun!

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. **Which layer do we live on?** (a) The mantle (b) The crust (c) The core

2. **Which layer is the thinnest?** (a) The crust (b) The mantle (c) The inner core

3. **What is the outer core made of?** (a) Ice (b) Soil and plants (c) Hot, liquid metal

4. **Where is the hottest part of the Earth?** (a) The inner core (b) The crust (c) The ocean

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2. Which layer?

Circle the layer each fact describes.

1	where we live	crust / mantle / core
2	the thickest layer	crust / mantle / core
3	made of metal	crust / mantle / core
4	includes the ocean floor	crust / mantle / core
5	hot rock that moves slowly	crust / mantle / core
6	at the centre of the Earth	crust / mantle / core

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Why do you think people have never visited the mantle or the core?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **Which layer do we live on?** (a) The mantle (b) **The crust** (c) The core
2. **Which layer is the thinnest?** (a) **The crust** (b) The mantle (c) The inner core
3. **What is the outer core made of?** (a) Ice (b) Soil and plants (c) **Hot, liquid metal**
4. **Where is the hottest part of the Earth?** (a) **The inner core** (b) The crust (c) The ocean

2. Which layer?

1	where we live	**crust**	mantle	core
2	the thickest layer	crust	**mantle**	core
3	made of metal	crust	mantle	**core**
4	includes the ocean floor	**crust**	mantle	core
5	hot rock that moves slowly	crust	**mantle**	core
6	at the centre of the Earth	crust	mantle	**core**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Why do you think people have never visited the mantle or the core?**
   They are deep under the crust and extremely hot, so people cannot dig that far or survive there.