Under Our Feet

Extreme Earth

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What Would You Find?

Imagine you are digging this hole.

What is at the bottom of the hole?

What different things might you find as you are digging?

Where would you end up?

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Welcome on board the Underground Explorer!

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Layers of Soil

Humus
The very top layer of soil, made up of rotting dead leaves and animals.

Topsoil
Where plants grow their roots. Very few rocks.

Subsoil
More rocks and stones in clay. This soil is full of nutrients. Tree roots may reach into this soil. You might find fossils here.

Bedrock
A mass of rock such as granite, basalt, quartzite, limestone or sandstone. You might find fossils here.

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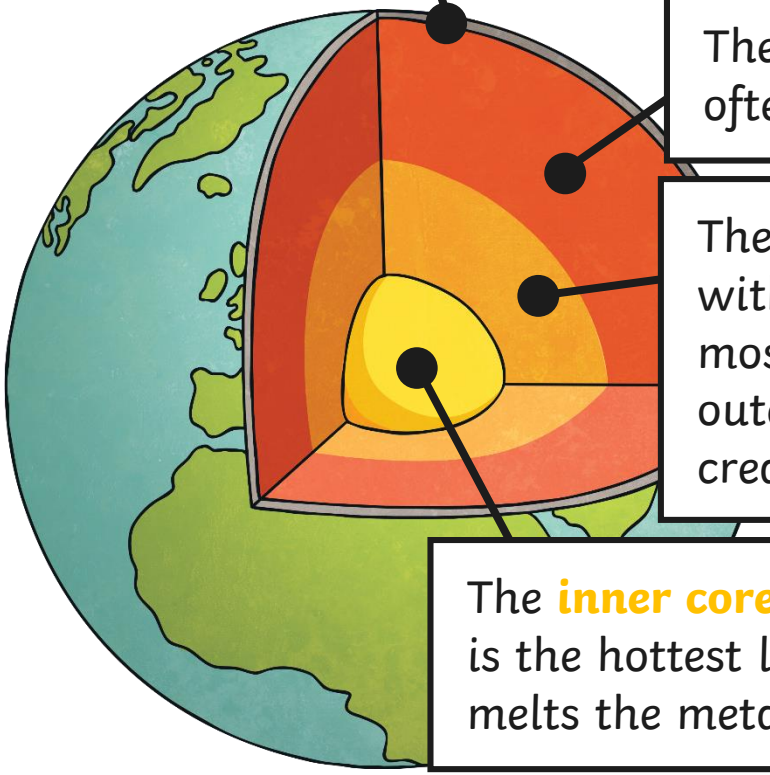
Layers of the Earth

The **crust** is the thin outer layer of cold, hard rock that covers the Earth. It is 10km-90km thick.



The **mantle** (extremely hot rock that often flows like treacle) is 3000km thick.

The **outer core** is mostly made up of iron, with some nickel. It is over 4000˚C. it is mostly liquid with some rocky parts. The outer core moves around the inner core, creating the Earth's magnetism.

The **inner core**, which is made of iron and nickel, is the hottest layer of the Earth at over 5000˚C. It melts the metals in the outer core to form magma.

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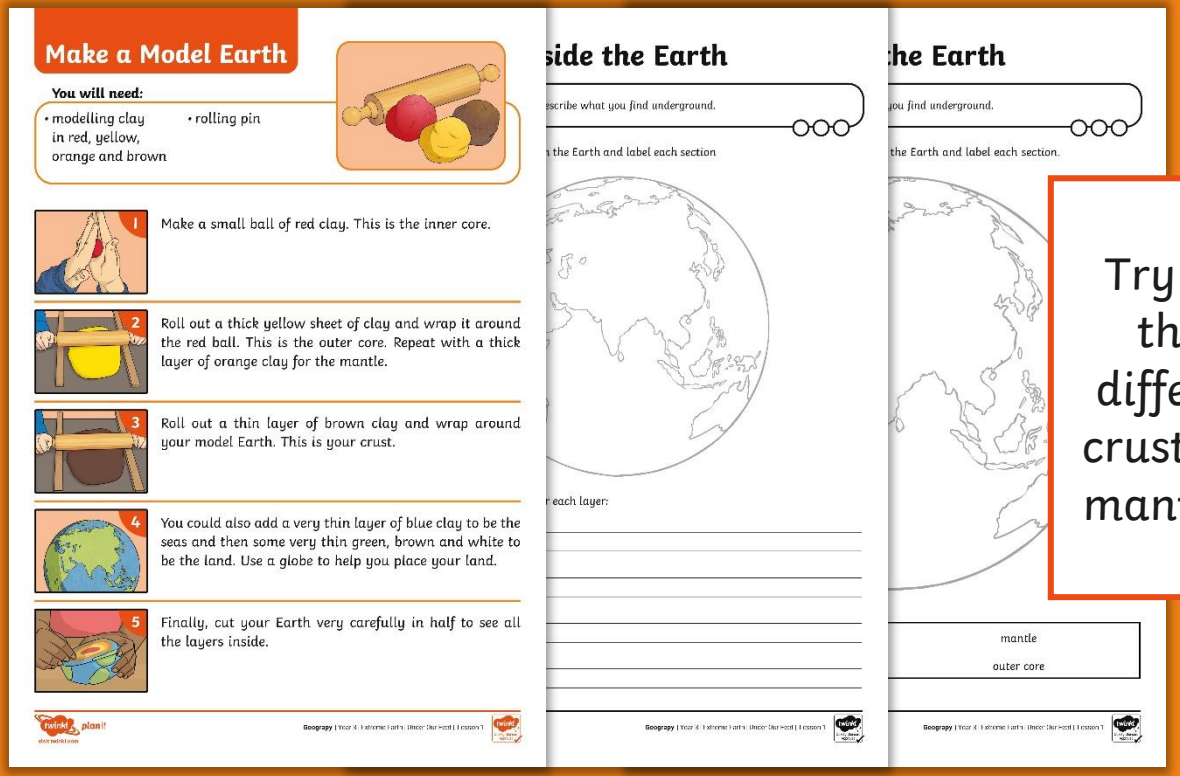
What Is Under Your Feet?

Use the equipment on your table to show the different layers that make up Earth.



Try to think about the size of each different layer! The crust is thin, but the mantle is very thick.

What's That Like?

Watch the video comparing the Earth's structure to a peach.

How is the comparison accurate?

How is the structure of the Earth different to that of a peach?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