

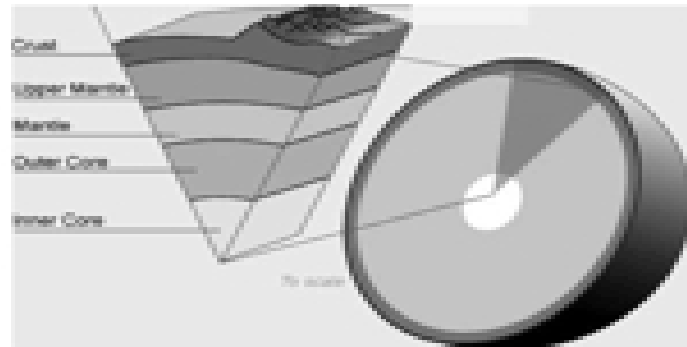
Name _____

Layers of the Earth

Learn facts about the layers of the Earth.

Read the passage and answer the questions on the next page.

The Earth has four layers, three solid and one liquid. That liquid is hot magma: molten metal that is nearly as hot as the surface of the sun. We'll start in the middle with a solid iron ball that is about 1,500 miles from the surface. This super hot iron



cannot melt because of all the pressure. The next layer is the outer core, a shell of liquid iron. This layer creates Earth's magnetic field and is about 1,400 miles thick. The mantle is next. Many people think this layer is lava, but it is really rock -- very hot rock that flows under pressure, like road tar. The mantle is about 1,800 miles thick, and separated into the mantle and upper mantle at around 465 miles. The outside layer of the Earth is the crust. The crust is about 5 miles deep under the ocean and about 25 miles deep beneath the thick continents. The movement of the hot mantle has broken the crust apart into large plates. These plates move around slowly and bump into each other creating mountains, new seafloor, and earthquakes.