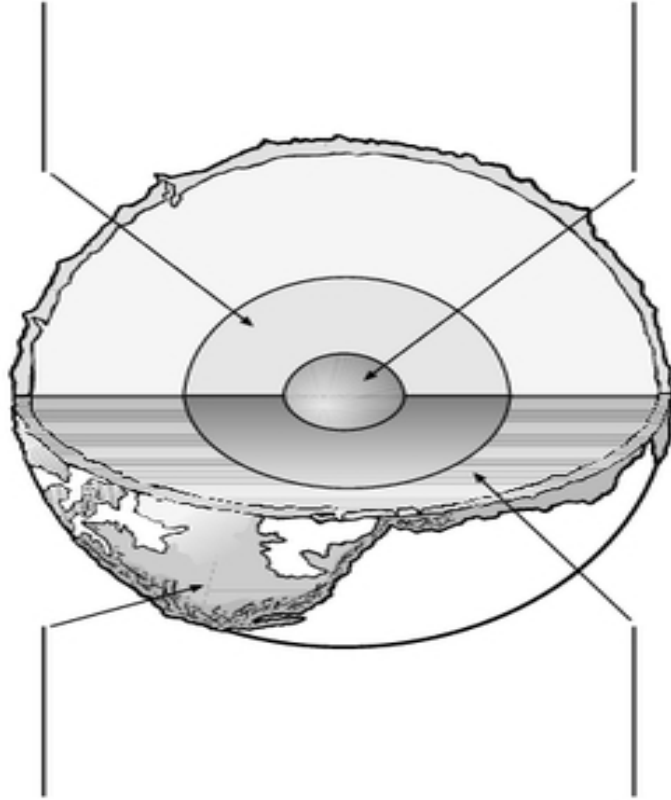


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Inside the Earth

What does the inside of the earth look like? The diagram below shows what many scientists think. Read the description of each layer of the earth. Then use the boldfaced words to label the diagram.



The **outer core** of the earth is made mostly of iron and nickel. Because it is very hot, the material is in liquid form. This layer of the earth is 1,200–1,400 miles thick. It lies beneath the mantle.

The **crust** reaches about 20 miles below the surface of the earth. It is made of rock. The crust is broken into large pieces called **tectonic plates**. The crust is always being changed by weather and land movement.

The **mantle** lies below the crust. It extends down about 1,800 miles. This thick layer is made mostly of iron and magnesium. Near the top is solid rock. The rock deeper down melts because of intense heat. The slow motion of the rock in the mantle causes the crust to move.

The **inner core** is also thought to be made of iron and nickel. Although its temperature is very high, the inner core remains solid because of the pressure it is under. The inner core is about 1,600 miles in diameter.

**Bonus Box:** The earth's crust is in constant motion. Although the plates move only a few inches each year, the movement of one plate still affects other plates. Some push together. Some pull apart. As the plates move, great changes are made on the earth's surface. What types of changes do you think are made?

