4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Earth's Layers



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 193 words | Describing with details

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 If you could slice Earth in half like a peach, you would see that it is made of **layers.** Scientists have never dug all the way down. The deepest hole ever drilled goes less than 8 miles into the ground. Instead, they learn about Earth's insides by studying how earthquake waves travel through it.

2 We live on the crust, the thin, rocky outer layer. Under the oceans, the crust can be only about 5 miles thick. Under tall mountains, it can be more than 40 miles thick. Compared with the whole planet, the crust is as thin as the skin of an apple.

3 Below the crust is the **mantle,** the thickest layer. It is about 1,800 miles thick and made of hot rock. The rock moves very slowly, like thick, warm putty, and this movement can **shift** the crust above it.

4 At the center is the core. The outer core is liquid metal, mostly iron and nickel. The inner core is a solid ball of metal. It is about as hot as the surface of the sun, but the huge weight of everything above presses it so tightly that it stays solid.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Earth's Layers: questions



Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.**

1 Circle the best answer

1. Which layer do we live on?

a) the crust b) the core c) the mantle

2. How do scientists study the inside?

a) by slicing peaches b) by digging to the core c) with earthquake waves

3. Why is the inner core solid?

a) it is very cold b) it is made of ice c) it is pressed so tightly

2 True or false? Circle one.

The mantle is the thickest layer.	True	False
The outer core is solid rock.	True	False
The crust is thinner under the oceans.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Earth's Layers: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

layers	the thick layer of hot rock under the crust
mantle	parts that lie one on top of another
shift	move a little

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Compare the outer core and the inner core. How are they alike, and how are they different?

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

Scan for more free practice

FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Earth's Layers

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) the crust
2. c) with earthquake waves
3. c) it is pressed so tightly

2 True or false

True: The mantle is the thickest layer.

False: The outer core is solid rock.

True: The crust is thinner under the oceans.

3 Word meanings

layers: parts that lie one on top of another

mantle: the thick layer of hot rock under the crust

shift: move a little

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

Both are made of metal and are very hot. The outer core is liquid, but the inner core is solid because it is pressed so tightly.

Scan for more free practice