

Earth Layers

Layer	Actual distance from centre	Description
Inner core	0 – 1,200 km (6,400 – 5,200 km from surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal (iron and nickel) • 8,000 – 10,000°C • Three to five million atmospheres of pressure • Solid – even though the temperatures are tremendous, the pressure is also so tremendous that the inner core is squeezed into a solid state.
Outer core	1,200 – 3,500 km (5,200 – 2,900 km from surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal (iron and nickel) • 2,000 – 1,000°C • One to two million atmospheres of pressure • Liquid – since there's less pressure, the outer core can flow as a liquid and its motion is thought to generate Earth's magnetic field.
Mantle	3,500 – 6,300 km (2,900 – 100 km from surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock (magma) • 1,000°C • One million atmospheres of pressure • Near-solid to liquid – near the core, the mantle is a 'plastic' solid, meaning that it is a liquid but incredibly viscous and flows incredibly slowly. It becomes more liquid and less viscous as you move outward from the core and the pressure decreases.
Lithosphere and Crust	6,300 – 6,400 km (100 – 0 km from surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock and ocean • Very low temperature and pressure • Solid (except for the ocean) • The lithosphere forms the tectonic plates. The bottom of the lithosphere is technically still part of the mantle. Riding on top of the lithosphere is the crust, the layer we live on (between five and 70 km deep).