

Interior of the Earth

Chapter 2: Interior of the Earth · Topic 1

Key Concept

The crust is Earth's thin, outermost layer, made of solid rock, on which we live, ranging from 5-70 km thick.

The mantle, beneath the crust, is much thicker and made of semi-solid rock that can flow slowly over long periods, driving plate movement.

The core, at Earth's centre, has two parts: the outer core (liquid, mostly iron and nickel) and the inner core (solid, extremely hot and dense).

Understanding Earth's interior structure helps explain phenomena like earthquakes, volcanoes, and the movement of tectonic plates.

Quick Revision Notes

- Crust: thin, outermost, solid rock layer.
- 5-70 km thick, where we live.
- Mantle: thicker, semi-solid, flows slowly.
- It drives plate movement.
- Core: outer (liquid) and inner (solid).
- Made mostly of iron and nickel.
- Interior structure explains earthquakes, volcanoes.
- Also explains tectonic plate movement.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw a diagram of Earth's layers.
- 2 Discuss the properties of the crust.
- 3 Discuss why the mantle can flow despite being solid-like.
- 4 Research the composition of the core.
- 5 Discuss how Earth's interior relates to earthquakes.
- 6 Explain each layer in your own words.