



BUILDING A MODEL OF THE LAYERS OF THE EARTH

We can't see inside the Earth, but we can build a model to help us understand its layers!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Subject: Earth Science

Grade Level: _____



OBJECTIVE

To build a model of the Earth that shows and identifies its main layers.



MATERIALS

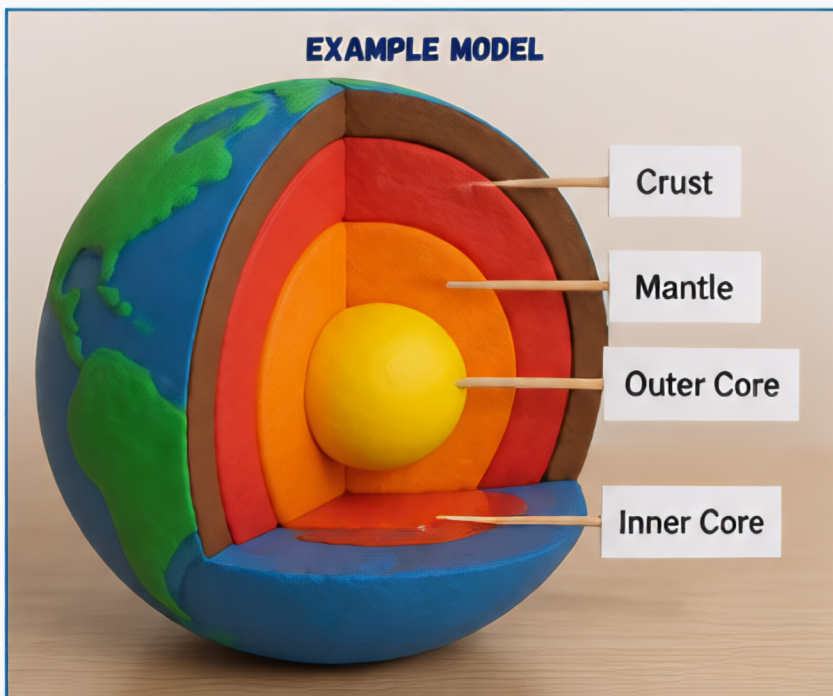
- Modeling clay or play dough (5 colors)
- Knife or plastic cutting tool
- Round base (like a ball or large foam sphere)
- Toothpicks with small flags or labels
- Printed layer labels (or write your own)
- Paper towel or mat for easy cleanup



BACKGROUND

- The Earth is made of different layers, each with different properties. From the outside to the inside, the main layers are: crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core.

EXAMPLE MODEL



PROCEDURE

1. **Prepare the Base:** Start with a round base (like a foam ball or large ball of clay). This will be your Earth.
2. **Add the Inner Core:** Make a small ball with the color of your choice (e.g., yellow). Place it in the center.
3. **Add the Outer Core:** Make a layer around the inner core with a different color (e.g., orange).
4. **Add the Mantle:** Add a thicker layer around the outer core with another color (e.g., red).
5. **Add the Crust:** Cover the outside with a thin layer (e.g., brown for land and blue for oceans). You can add green for continents.
6. **Cut and Display:** Use a knife or cutting tool to cut away a section so the layers are visible.
7. **Label the Layers:** Use toothpicks and labels to identify each layer from the outside to the inside.
8. **Observe and Discuss:** Look at your model and answer the questions below.



OBSERVATIONS

Fill in the table with information about each layer.

Layer	Color Used	Relative Thickness (thin, thick, etc.)	Description (What is its role?)
Crust			
Mantle			
Outer Core			
Inner Core			



QUESTIONS

1. Which layer do you think is the thickest? _____
2. Which layer do you think is the hottest? Why? _____

3. How does your model help you understand the Earth better? _____



EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

- Research more about each layer.
- Find out the temperature of each layer.
- Create a poster or digital slide to teach someone else about the layers of the Earth!