

Earth Layers Study Sheet

1. crust The layer of rock that forms Earth's outer surface.
2. mantle The layer of hot, solid material between Earth's crust and core.
3. outer core A layer of molten iron and nickel that surrounds the inner core of Earth.
4. inner core A dense sphere of solid iron and nickel at the center of Earth.
5. lithosphere A rigid layer made up of the uppermost part of the mantle and the crust.
6. asthenosphere The soft layer of the mantle on which the lithosphere floats.
7. basalt A dark, dense, igneous rock with a fine texture, found in oceanic crust.
8. granite A usually light colored igneous rock that is found in continental crust.
9. tectonic plates Sections of the Earth's crust that move due to convection currents.
10. continental crust The portion of the earth's crust that primarily contains granite.
11. oceanic crust The portion of Earth's crust that is usually below the oceans.
12. convection currents Circular currents in the mantle caused by the magma being heated by the core off the Earth.
13. temperature A measure of how hot or cold something is.
14. pressure The force exerted on a surface divided by the total area over which the force is exerted.
15. seismic waves Vibrations that travel through Earth carrying the energy released during an earthquake.