

INNER EARTH FACTS

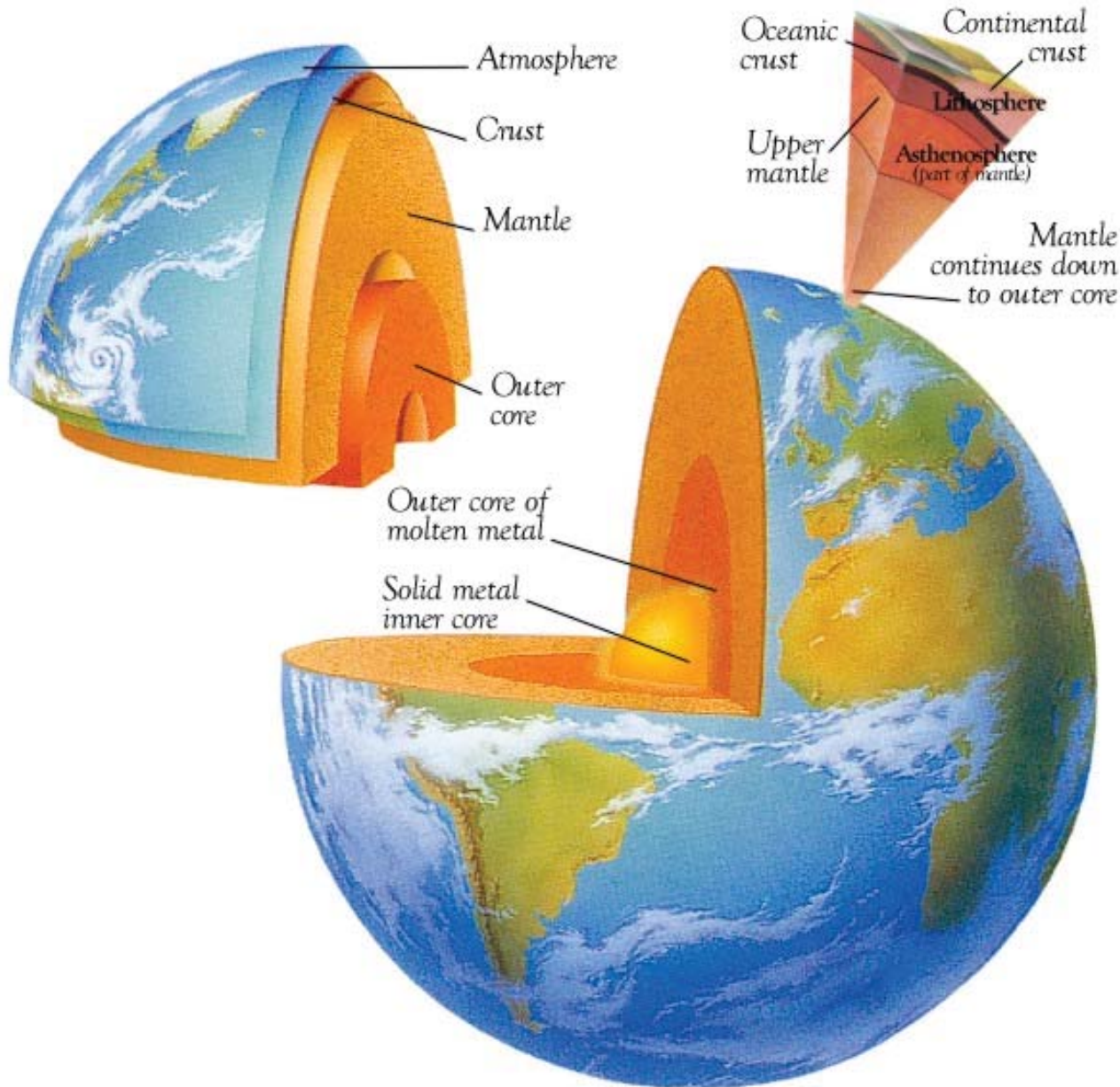
INSIDE THE EARTH

Geologists are scientists who study the processes which create the Earth's features and search for clues about Earth's history. Geology and **Earth Science** are the same.

The Earth is made up of four layers. The thin outer layer is called the **crust**, which is the layer we live and walk on. Then comes the hot, partly molten rock of the **mantle**. Beneath the mantle is a layer of liquid metal called the **outer core**. In the center of the Earth there is a ball of very hot solid metal called the **inner core**.

Scientists have figured out what is likely to be inside the Earth by **analyzing rock** and **studying the shock waves** that travel up to the surface during earthquakes.

New crust is being made all of the time -- molten rock bubbles up through huge cracks in the crusts' plates, usually in the Atlantic Ocean. There are two kinds of crust -- **oceanic crust** and **continental crust**. Continental crust is much thicker than oceanic crust. Oceanic crust is made of thicker, denser rock such as **basalt** while continental crust is made of lighter rock such as **granite**.



DISTANCE
ATMOSPHERE
16-480 km
10-300 mi.

CRUST
10-75 km
6-46 mi.

MANTLE
2900 km
1802 mi.

OUTER CORE
2200 km
1637 mi.

INNER CORE
1250 km
778 mi.

TEMPERATURE
ATMOSPHERE
14-15° C Average

CRUST
-70-400° C

MANTLE
870C-3700° C

OUTER CORE
3700-6000° C

INNER CORE
6000-7000° C

STATE (S/L/G)
ATMOSPHERE
gas

CRUST
solid

MANTLE
plastic
semi-liquid

OUTER CORE
liquid

INNER CORE
solid

PRESSURE

The Pressure in the inner core is 1.4 million times the pressure at the crust.