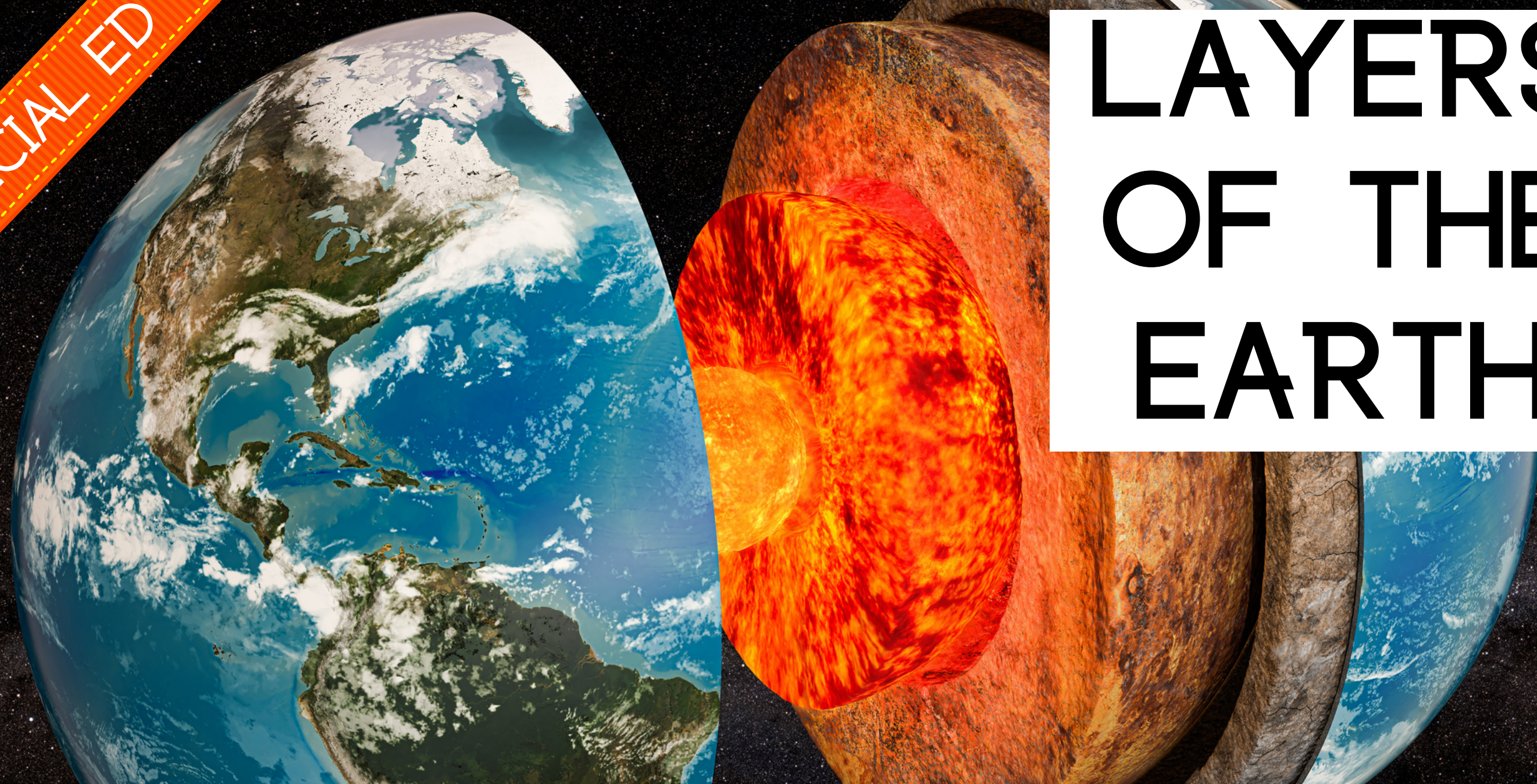


SPECIAL ED



LAYERS OF THE EARTH



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!

Table of Contents

Pages	Activity
4-51	Layers of the Earth
52-54	Vocabulary board
55-67	Vocabulary cards
68-91	Vocabulary cards cut and paste
92-96	Large layers cards
97-110	Circle maps
111-121	Labeling the layers
122-126	Sorting activities
127-137	Venn Diagrams
138-141	Writing Prompt
142-152	Sudoku
153-154	Word Search
155-166	Cloze worksheets
167-184	Assessment
185-186	Terms of Use

Also included with this unit is a power point show that is narrated and has automatic advancement of slides. Let me know in the feedback if this was helpful 😊

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This unit contains almost 200 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

Layers of the Earth

Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
 - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make one set for each student and also one for the teacher to use in I Spy games
- Print the large timeline cards on cardstock and laminate.
 - For additional ideas on how to use these, go to:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/06/13/making-a-life-sized-timeline/>

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards introduction • Circle map 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Sorting ws 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Circle map 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Sorting ws 	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Circle map 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Venn diagram 	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Labeling ws 	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Venn diagram 	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Labeling ws 	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Writing prompt 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Labeling ws 	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards cut and paste 	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Close ws
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Labeling ws 	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards cut and paste 	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Sudoku • Word search
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab cards activity • Large layer cards • Labeling ws 				

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

Day 3

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocabulary board
Vocabulary cards Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I play this game see description on day 2• Today, try to give clues about the card your student needs to find<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Read definition◦ Show real photo that relates to card from book◦ Describe the picture• Discuss relevant points on the card<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ You can also play this game in this manner having them find the symbol on their vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocabulary cards (student set and teacher set)• Vocabulary board
Large Layer Sequencing Cards (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass the cards out to the students and have them arrange themselves in the correct order<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Add index cards if needed to floor (see day 2)• Have each student step forward and name some facts from their card.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large layer cards
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the circle map completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete circle map
Circle Map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the circle map about earthquakes• Choose the best version (errorless or not) depending on the learning level of your students• Students cut out symbols and place in circle map• Make connections to the book as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle map• Scissors• Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student shares their finished circle map	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed activity• Communication devices

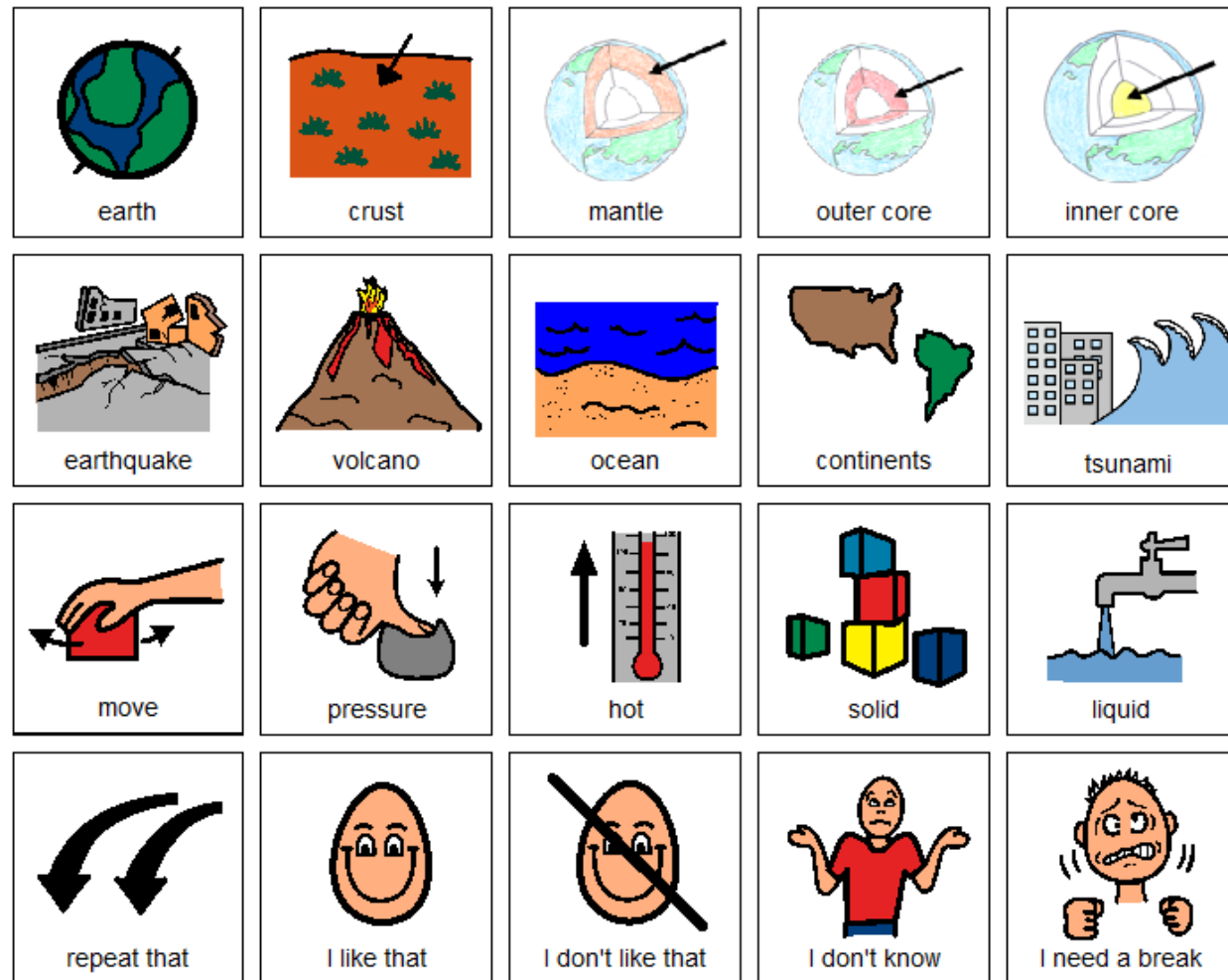
The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

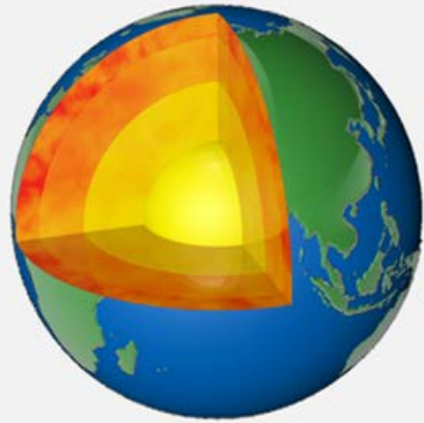
This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

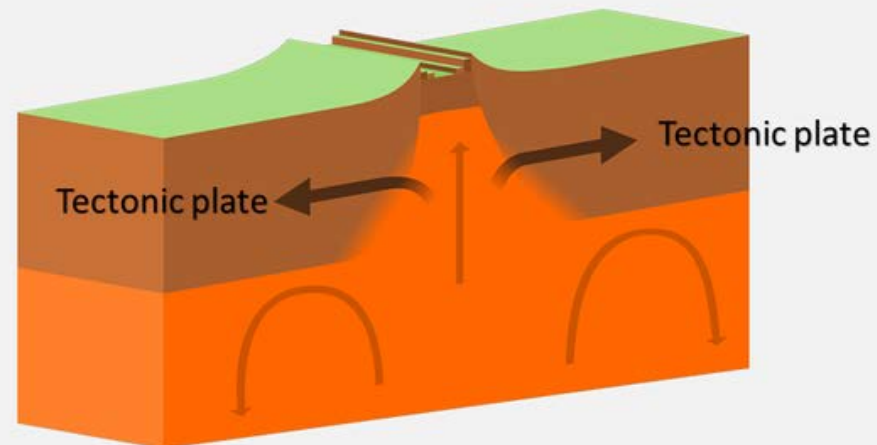
Tips on how to use in the unit!!



This caused the Earth to have very distinct layers. Our planet has 4 layers to be exact.



In the mantle, we find something called **tectonic plates**. Tectonic plates are very large pieces of rock that are a combination of the crust and the upper level of the mantle.

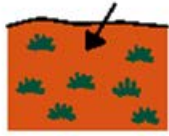


There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 48 pages and is an overview of the layers of the earth.

Both come in pdf versions as well as a voice-recorded powerpoints (so you don't have to print it out.)

crust

The surface of the earth where all living things are.



oceanic crust

Crust layer found on the bottom of the ocean.



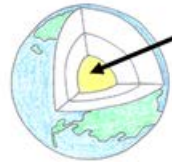
continental crust

Crust layer found on the continents.



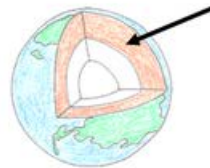
inner core

The middle/deepest layer of the Earth that is solid due to all the pressure.



mantle

Second layer of the earth and is hot but soft like Play-doh.



tectonic plates

Very large pieces of rock that float on top of the mantle and just beneath the crust.



volcano

Where hot vapor, gas and liquid rock escape from the mantle.



earthquake

Severe shaking of the Earth when the tectonic plates slide and move against each other.



There are 20 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

fault

The seam where 2 tectonic plates come together.



mantle plume

Extremely hot pocket in the mantle that can result in a volcano.



magma

Liquid rock in the mantle that comes out of an active volcano.



erupt

When a volcano releases magma, gases, and ash.



There is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).

active



dormant



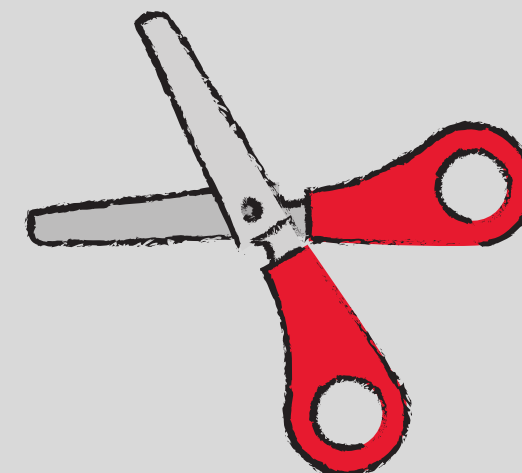
extinct



Ring of Fire



Shock waves caused in an earthquake.	Crust layer found on the ocean floor.
Extremely hot pocket in the mantle that can result in a volcano.	A volcano that has erupted in history, but is currently quiet and showing signs or erupting.
The middle/deepest layer of the Earth that is solid due to all the pressure.	Place on Earth's surface where an earthquake began.
Massive wave caused by an earthquake or volcano in the ocean that can destroy a city.	Where hot vapor, gas and liquid rock escape from the mantle.



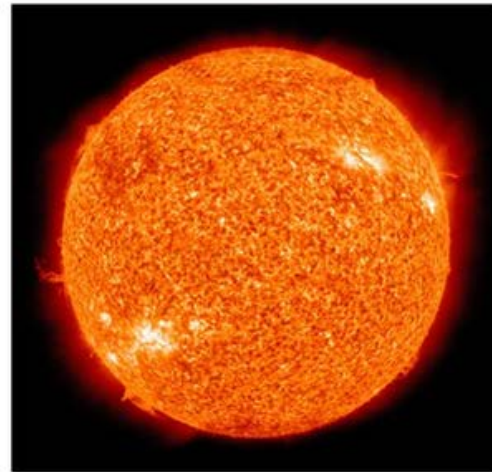


CRUST

The crust is the top layer where all life is found.

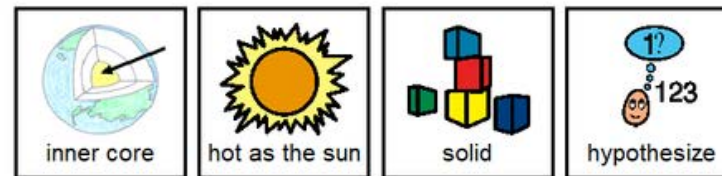


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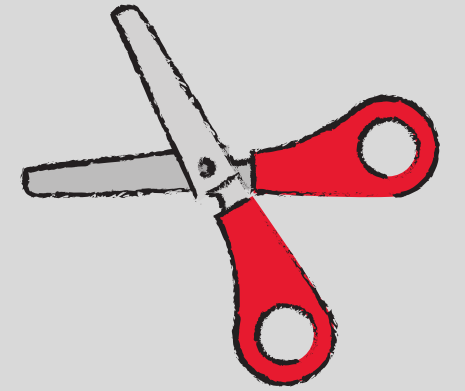


INNER CORE

This is the center of the Earth. It is solid and as hot as the sun.



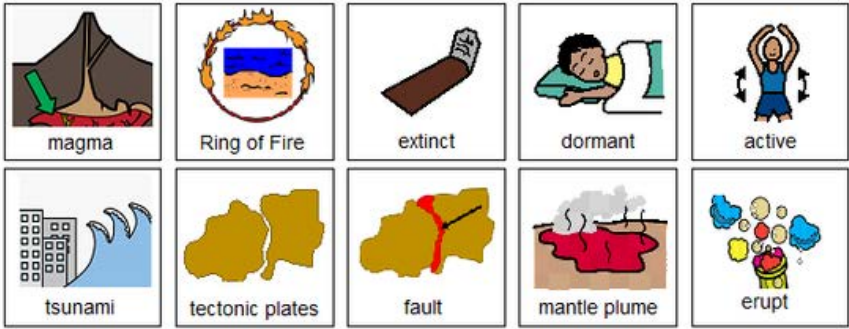
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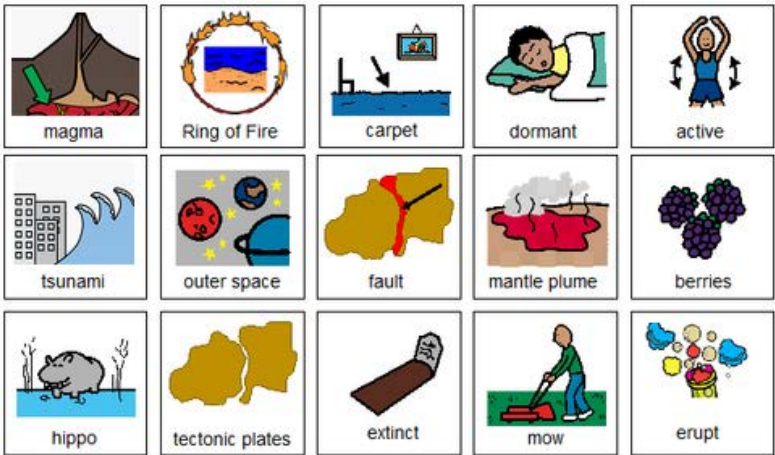
There are large cards with details for each layer of the earth you can use in group activities.

Errorless version

Cut apart pictures and place in circle map about volcanoes.



Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to volcanoes.



There are 3 circle maps reviewing the layers of the earth, volcanoes, and earthquakes.

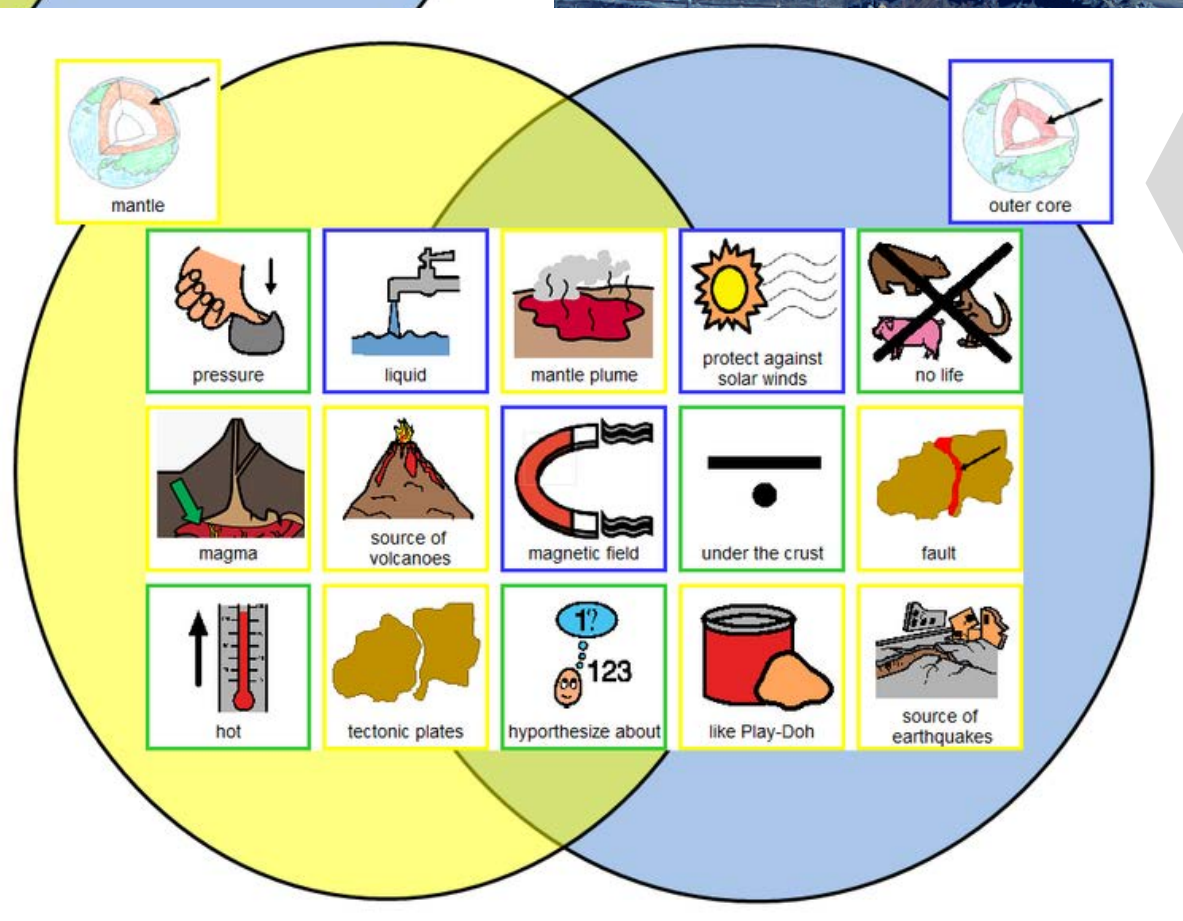
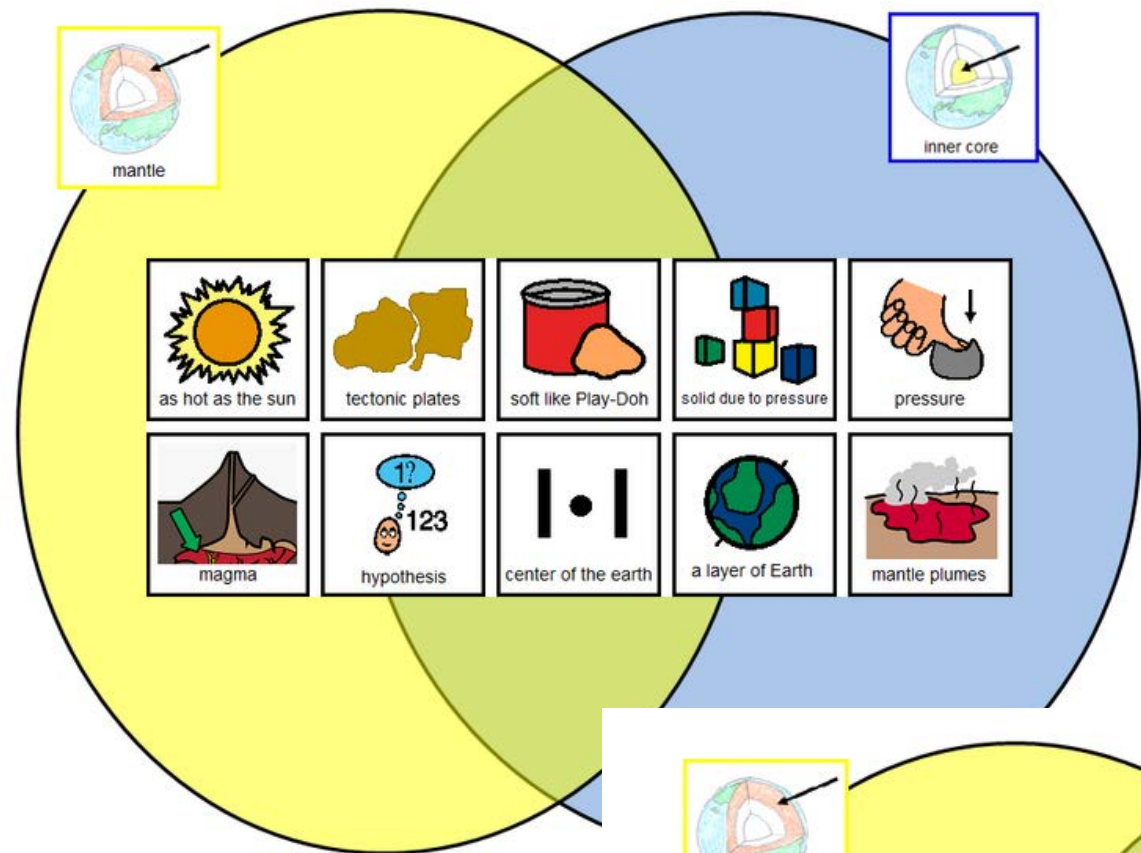
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance.

There are 2 versions:

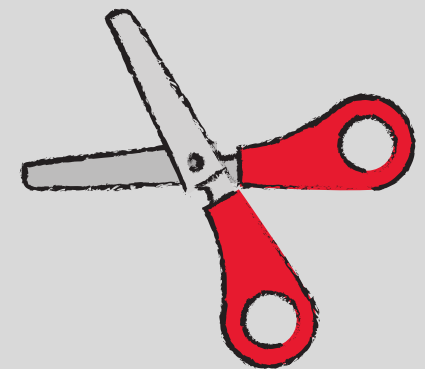
- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

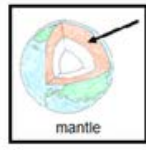
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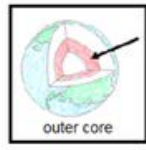


There are 2 Venn diagrams to compare the different layers. A color-coded version is included for students who need more support.

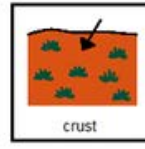
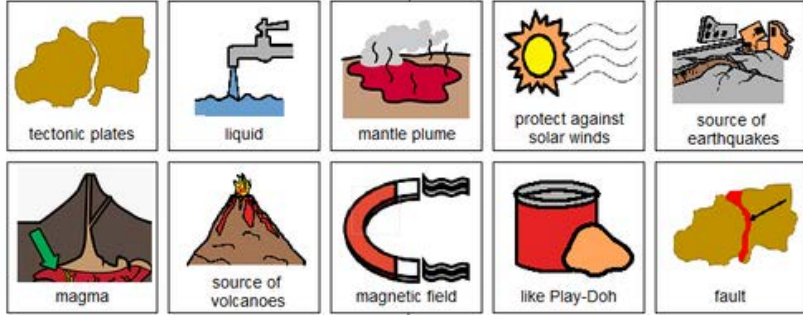




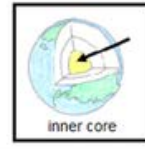
mantle



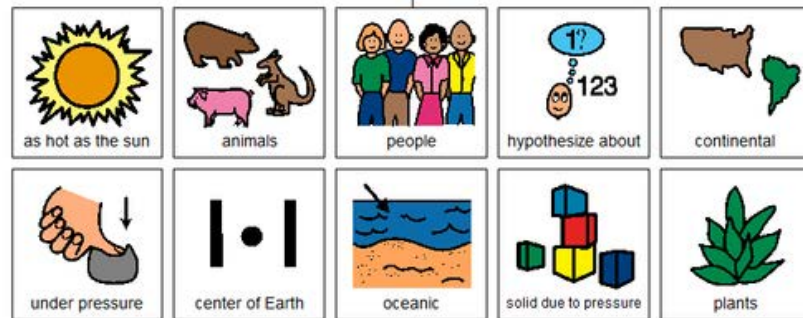
outer core



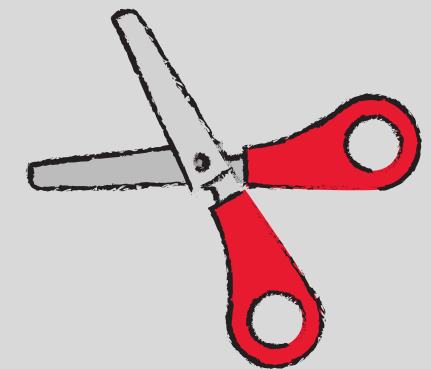
crust



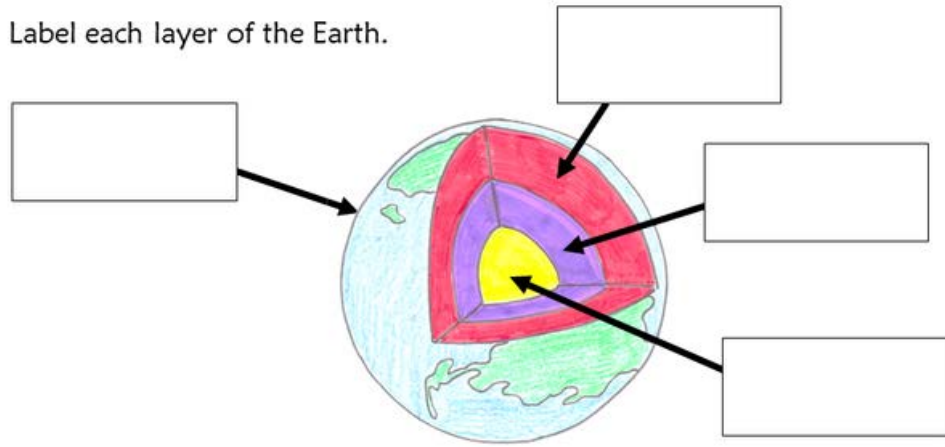
inner core



There are also 2 sorting activities if your students find Venn diagrams too overwhelming. Suggestions for differentiation are included.



Label each layer of the Earth.



crust

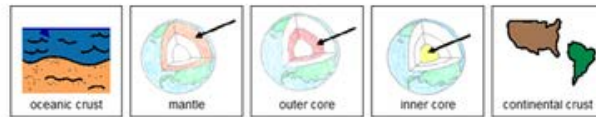
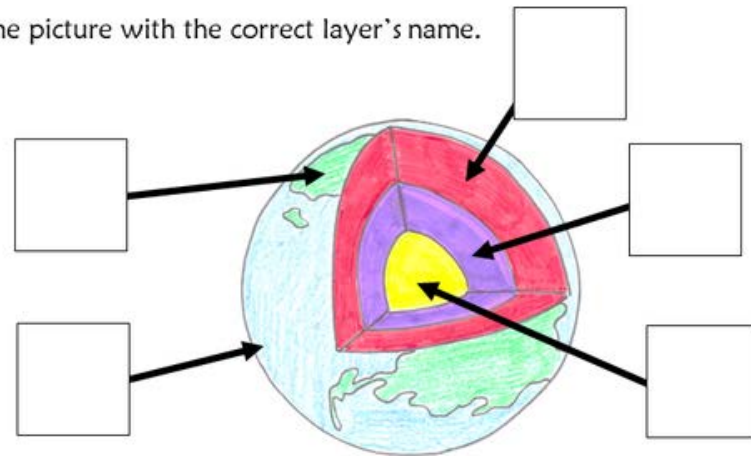
mantle

Outer core

Inner core

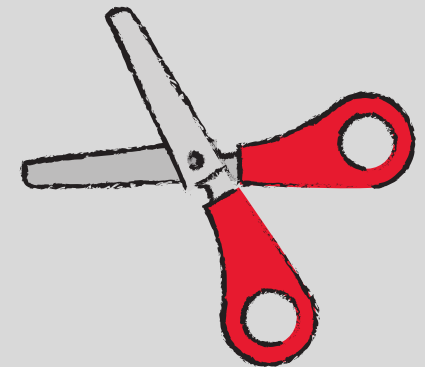
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Match the picture with the correct layer's name.



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There are several labeling activities. One is more detailed. Each labeling activity comes with the option of using pictures or words.



Follow the directions, and color in each layer as directed.



- Color the **mantle red**
- Color the **outer core purple**
- Color the **inner core yellow**

There is also a coloring activity to color each layer of the earth following the directions.










Going Under the Crust


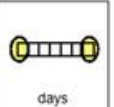
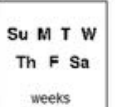







1. I took a trip to the layer .
2. I had to go in a special .
3. It took 2 to get there!
4. When I got there it was very .
5. I brought some back with me.

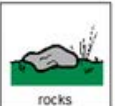

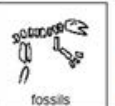

Have students pick one or more pictures for each question to complete the writing prompt on the previous page. They could also come up with their own answers!

1    

2      





















3      

4      







5      

There is a writing prompt in this unit. Students will write a story about what they think it would be like to travel to one of the layers. This is an errorless activity.

Layers of the Earth

 epicenter	 tsunami	 volcano	 Inner core	 Ring of fire
		 crust	 epicenter	 volcano
 crust	 volcano	 tsunami	 Inner core	 epicenter
 Ring of fire	 Inner core	 epicenter		 volcano
				 crust
	 crust			 epicenter

Layers of the Earth

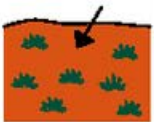
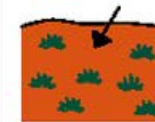
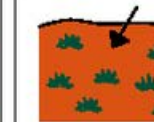
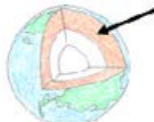

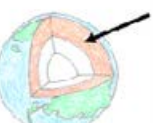




 pressure	 hot		
 hot		 crust	 mantle
		 pressure	

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

There are 2 versions plus answer keys.



Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

 crust	 crust	 crust	 mantle	 mantle
 mantle	 pressure	 pressure	 hot	 hot

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Layers of the Earth

A E E P I C E N T E R L Q S M
 N V Q T Y G H Z N E G X Z I B
 B V K A X E X T I N C T M T D
 H A S E I S M O G R A P H U I
 Q G X D K D T F E K C R U S T
 D O R M A N T V O L C A N O T
 E W Q Q F V O X D S T Y H Z R
 B M R E A R T H Q U A K E X A
 A A N D M A N T L E O G J A C
 V G E I W K Y E V M Z F T G T
 B M R I N N E R C O R E A M I
 L A U F W G T S U N A M I W V
 B H P D H O U T E R C O R E E
 K H T H Y P O T H E S I Z E Z
 Z P I R B A M F F A U L T W W

seismograph	hypothesize	earthquake	inner core
epicenter	outer core	tsunami	extinct
volcano	mantle	dormant	active
crust	fault	magma	erupt

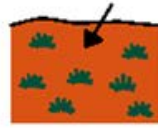
Layers of the Earth

A E E P I C E N T E R L Q S M
 N V Q T Y G H Z N E G X Z I B
 B V K A X E X T I N C T M T D
 H A S E I S M O G R A P H U I
 Q G X D K D T F E K C R U S T
 D O R M A N T V O I C A N O T
 E W Q Q F V O X D S T Y H Z R
 B M R E A R T H Q U A K E X A
 A A N D M A N T L E O G J A C
 V G E I W K Y E V M Z F T G T
 B M R I N N E R C O R E A M I
 L A U F W G T S U N A M I W V
 B H P D H O U T E R C O R E E
 K H T H Y P O T H E S I Z E Z
 Z P I R B A M F F A U L T W W

seismograph	hypothesize	earthquake	inner core
epicenter	outer core	tsunami	extinct
volcano	mantle	dormant	active
crust	fault	magma	erupt

There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.

Crust



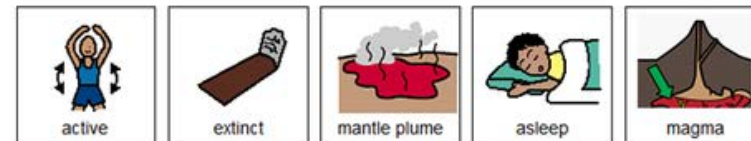
1. The crust is the layer.
2. The crust is where all are found.
3. The oceanic crust is found below the .
4. We live on the crust.
5. Scientists know about this layer.



Volcanoes

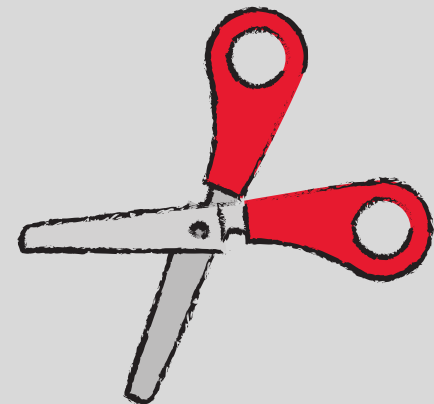


1. Volcanoes can form where there is a under .
2. comes up from the mantle to escape.
3. volcanoes have erupted recently.
4. Dormant volcanoes are now but may erupt again.
5. Volcanoes that will probably never erupt again are .

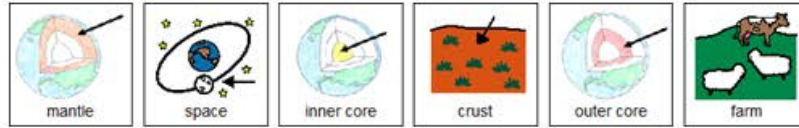


Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. There are 6 worksheets included. There is one for each layer, one for volcanoes, and one for earthquakes.

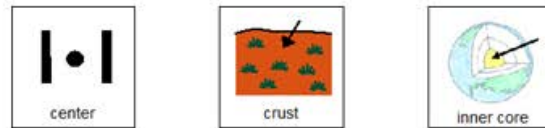
Answer key included.



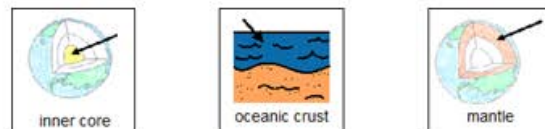
1. Circle all the layers of the Earth:



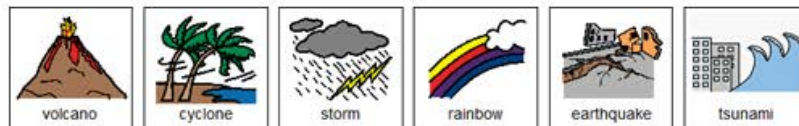
2. Circle the layer people, plants, and animals live on:



3. Which layer is at the center of the Earth?



4. Circle all the things that can happen when the tectonic plates move:



5. The mantle is the consistency of:

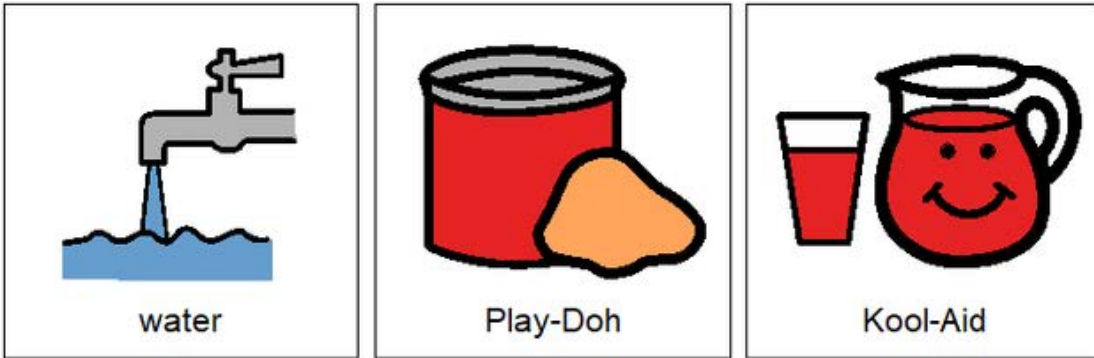


FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

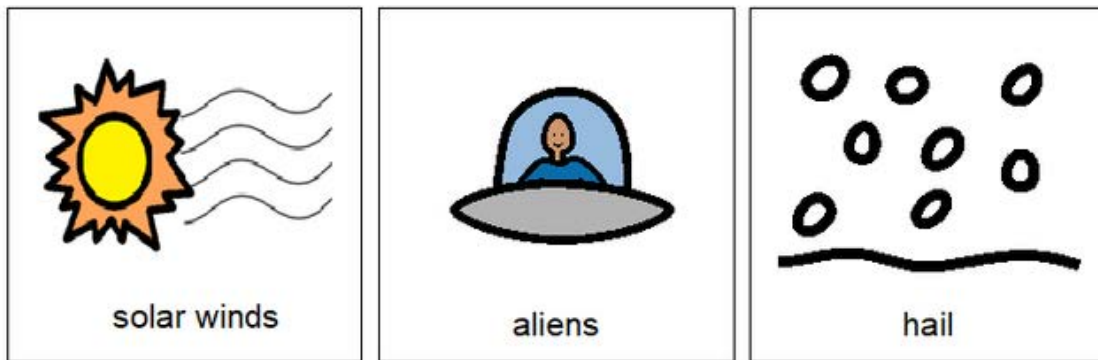
Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5



Q 6



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. Circle all the layers of the Earth:
A. Mantle D. Crust
B. Space E. Outer core
C. Inner core F. Farm
2. Circle the layer people, plants, and animals live on:
A. Center
B. Crust
C. Inner core
3. Which layer is at the center of the Earth?
A. Inner core
B. Oceanic crust
C. Mantle
4. Circle all the things that can happen when the tectonic plates move:
A. Volcano D. Rainbow
B. Cyclone E. Earthquake
C. Storm F. Tsunami
5. The mantle is the consistency of:
A. Water
B. Play-Doh
C. Kool-Aid
6. The inner core creates a magnetic field that protects the Earth from:
A. Solar winds
B. Aliens
C. hail

This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.

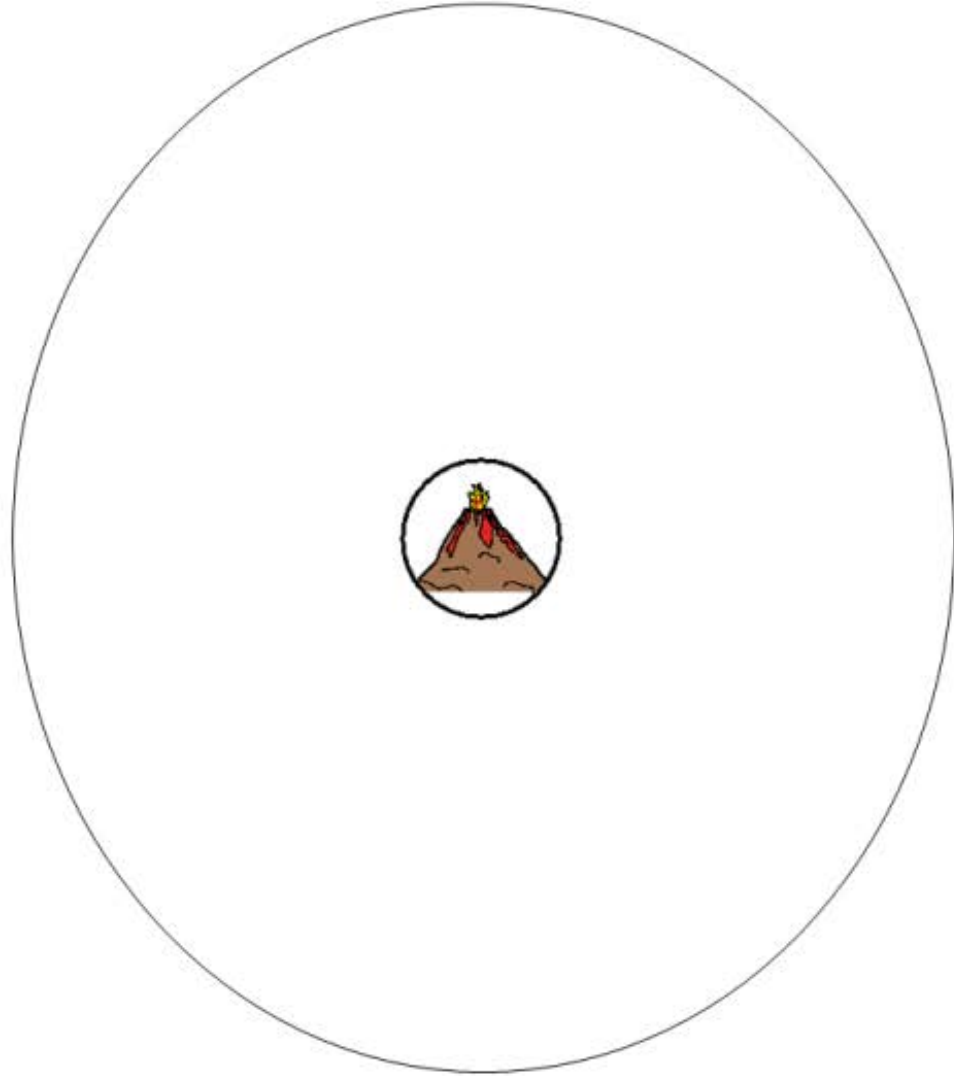
Watch the
movie on Layers
of the Earth

Because the crust supports all the life on our planet, it is important we take care of it by keeping the environment as clean as possible.



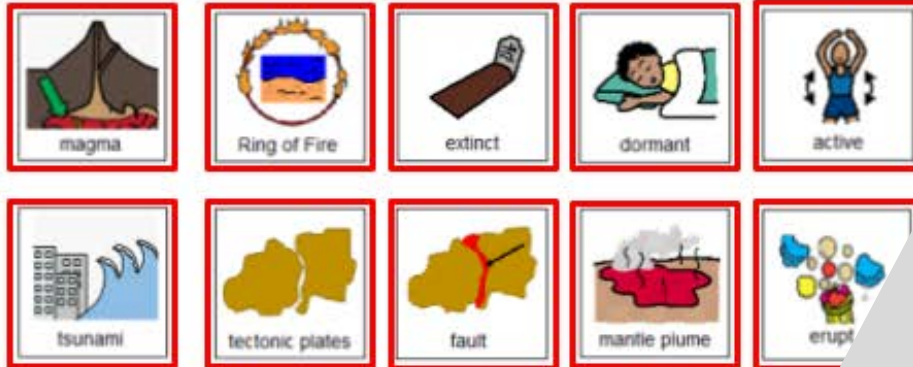
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

This unit also has digital activities. There is a movie version of the books students can listen to read aloud.



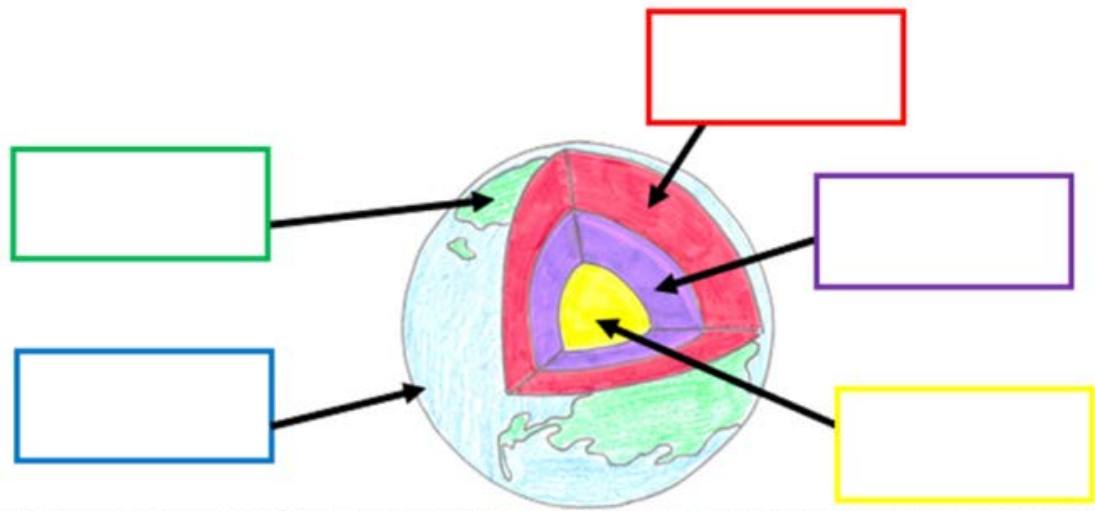
Day 2
differentiated

Place pictures in circle map about volcanoes.



The digital activities have students click and drag their answers.

Day 5
differentiated

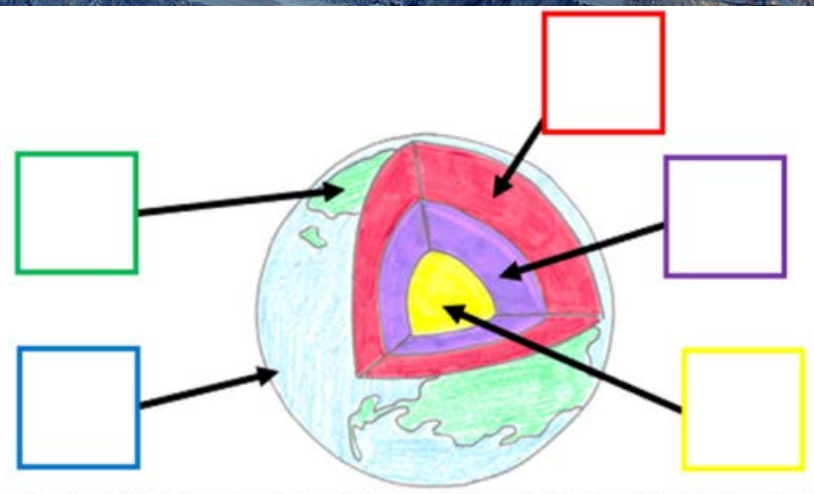


Label each layer of the Earth.


- oceanic crust
- outer core
- mantle
- inner core
- Continental crust

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
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Day 8
differentiated



Match the picture with the correct layer's name.

- 
oceanic crust
- 
mantle
- 
outer core
- 
inner core
- 
continental crust

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
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There are 2 sets of slides. One set has color-coding for more support.



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

All of the activities (except the book) come in color and black and white.

[Click Here to read more!!](#)