

Layers of the Earth

With Digital Activities

**For
Special
Ed**

Special Needs for Special Kids





This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, struggles with attention AND he is able to do this unit. He is my tester!!

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This unit contains almost 200 pages of material, but don't worry I have detailed lesson plans to show you how to make this last 22 days or more. There are also **53 google slides**.

Everything highlighted in yellow comes with a digital version of the activity.

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 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-lifetime-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 • 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.

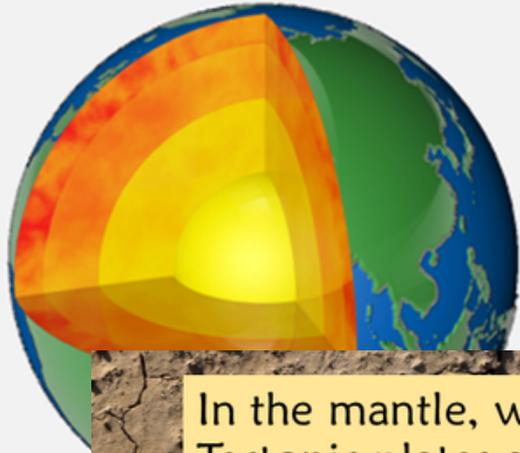
Day 3

| 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 I 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"> • Completed 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 |

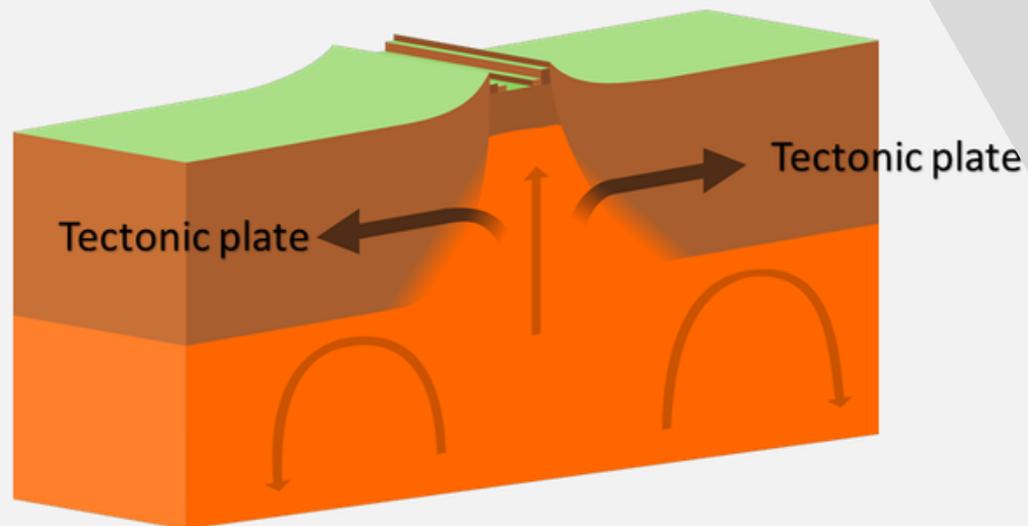
The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run.

This 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.



This unit contains a 48-page book. It has simple text and engaging photos. I encourage teachers to start **EVERY** lesson with this book.

It comes in a pdf and a voice recorded version so you don't have to print it out.

Scientists cannot predict when a volcano might erupt for certain. There are 3 types of volcanic activity that scientists study.



Play (k)

▶ ▶ | 🔊 3:41 / 9:26

CC

⚙️

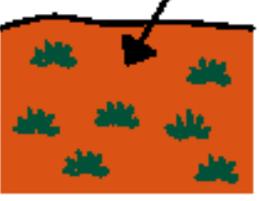
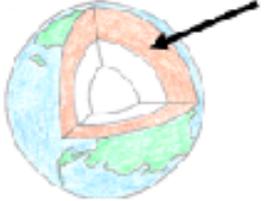
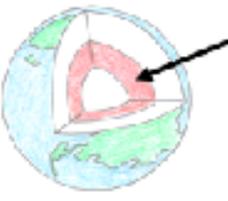
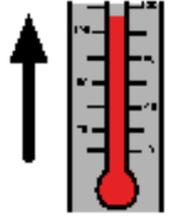
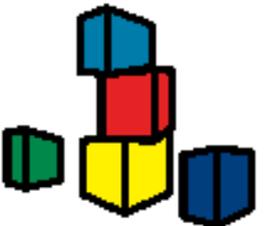
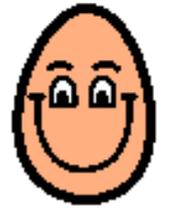
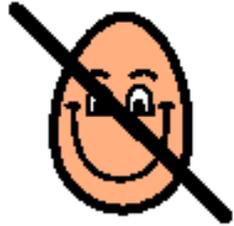
📺

There is an mp4 version of the book which you can play in google or assign for students to watch and listen to in google classroom.

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

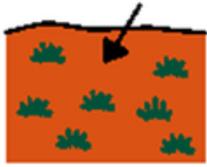
Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  earth |  crust |  mantle |  outer core |  inner core |
|  earthquake |  volcano |  ocean |  continents |  |
|  move |  pressure |  hot |  solid |  liquid |
|  repeat that |  I like that |  I don't like that |  I don't know |  I need a break |

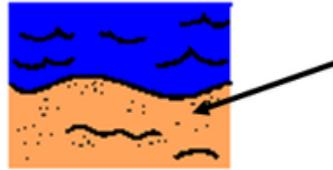
crust

The surface of the earth where all living things are.



oceanic crust

Crust layer found on the bottom of the ocean.



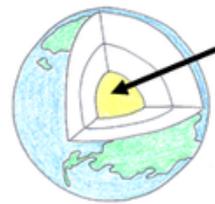
continental crust

Crust layer found on the continents.



inner core

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



tectonic

Very large pieces of the top of the Earth.



volcano

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



earthquake

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

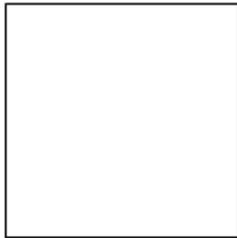


This unit comes with 24 vocabulary cards.

Every day students will do a group activity using these cards to get more familiar with words that are likely new to them.

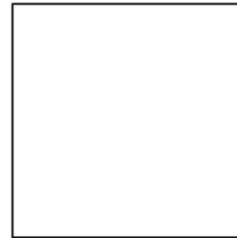
fault

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.

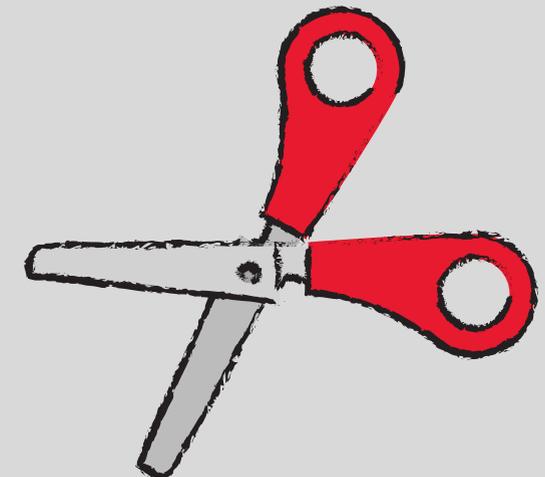


erupt

When a volcano releases gases, and ash.



Students will also test their knowledge of these new words and symbols with a cut and paste activity on days 14&15.



active



dormant



extinct



Ring of Fire



Shock waves caused in an earthquake.

Crust layer found on the ocean.

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

A volcano that has erupted in history, but is currently quiet and not showing signs or erupting.

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

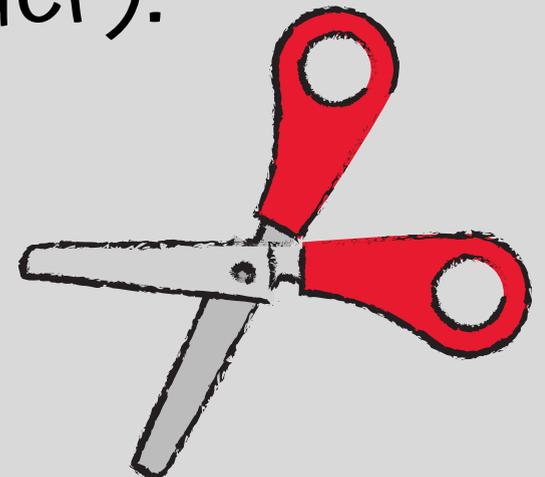
Place on Earth's surface where earthquake began.

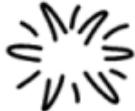
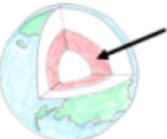
Massive wave caused by an earthquake or volcano in the ocean that can destroy a city.

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

You have 2 choices:

1. Students match the picture to the definition (easier).
2. Students match the definition to the picture (harder).

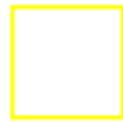
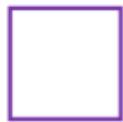


| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>seismic waves</p>  | <p>seismograph</p>  | <p>tsunami</p>  | <p>hypothesize Day 15</p>  |
| <p>Richter scale</p>  | <p>epicenter</p>  | <p>outer core</p>  | <p>Solar winds</p>  |

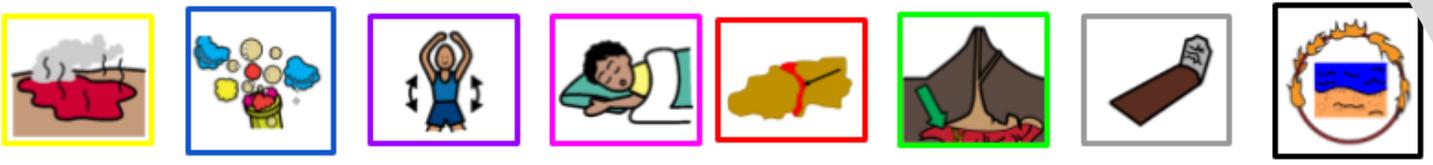
Match the definition with the picture.

- Shock waves caused in an earthquake.
- Massive wave caused by an earthquake or volcano in the ocean that can destroy a city.
- When scientists use known facts to make an educated guess.
- Place on Earth's surface where earthquake began.
- Dangerous flow of charged particles from the sun that can hurt the Earth.
- Measures the intensity or how bad an earthquake is.
- Measures the movement of the seismic waves.
- Third layer of the Earth that is liquid.

There are digital versions of the vocabulary matching activities. Both versions (matching the pictures and matching the definitions) are included.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>fault</p> <p>The seam where 2 tectonic plates come together.</p>  | <p>mantle plume</p> <p>Extremely hot pocket in the mantle that can result in a volcano.</p>  | <p>active</p> <p>Volcano that has recently erupted or is still in danger of erupting.</p>  | <p>dormant</p> <p>A volcano that has erupted in recent history but is currently quiet and not showing signs or erupting.</p>  |
| <p>magma</p> <p>Liquid rock in the mantle that comes out of an active volcano.</p>  | <p>erupt</p> <p>When a volcano releases magma, gases, and ash.</p>  | <p>extinct</p> <p>A volcano that has NOT erupted in recent history and is not likely to erupt again.</p>  | <p>Ring of Fire</p> <p>Area in Pacific Ocean where the volcanoes are located most of the earth.</p>  |

Match the picture to the definition.



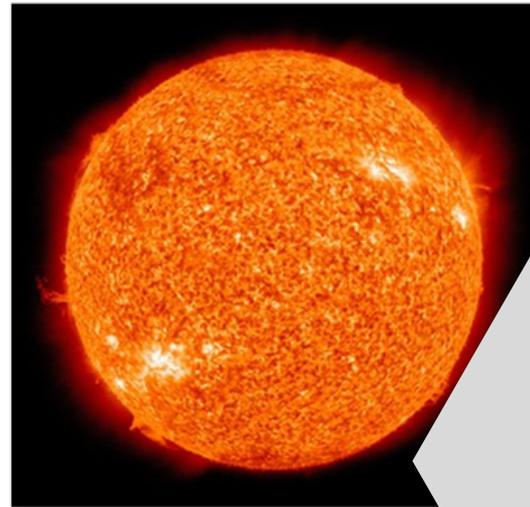
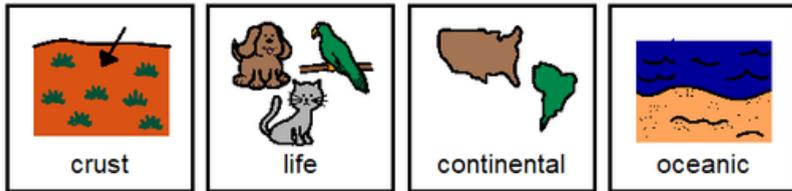
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The differentiated versions include color coding so more students can complete these worksheets independently.



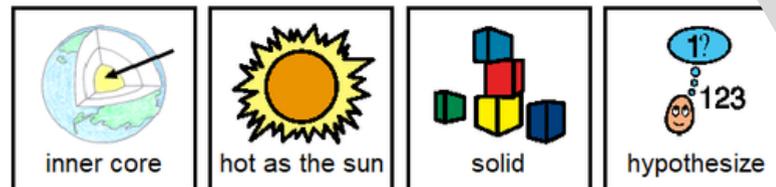
CRUST

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



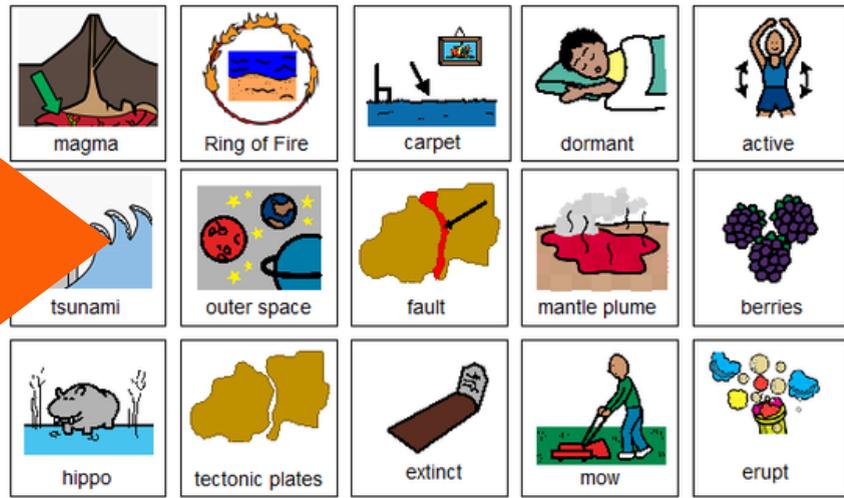
INNER CORE

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



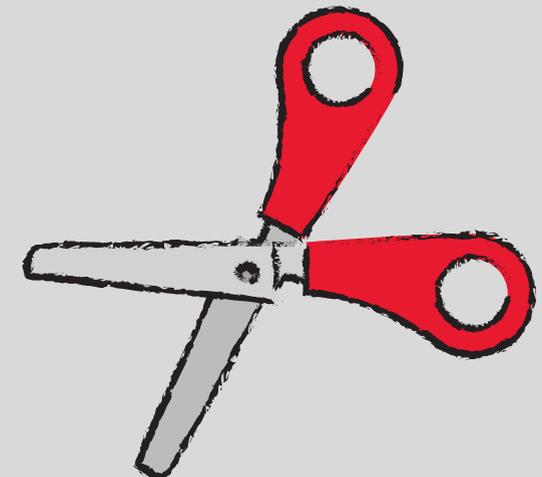
There are 4 large cards for students to practice sequencing the different layers. These only come in color. *Suggestions for how to use them are included.*

wrong answers
mixed in



There are 3 circle maps in this unit. Each has a version that is errorless and one that has wrong answers mixed in that students will set aside.

errorless

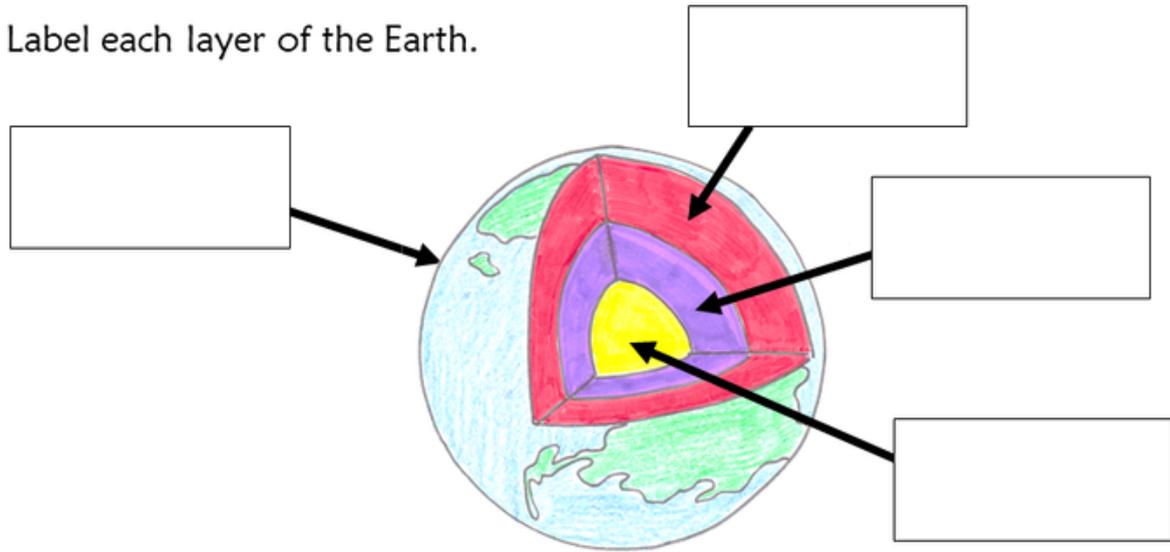




There is a drag and drop version of the circle maps in this unit. The differentiated versions contains only correct answers.

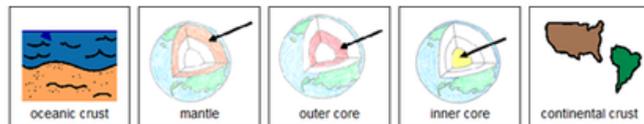
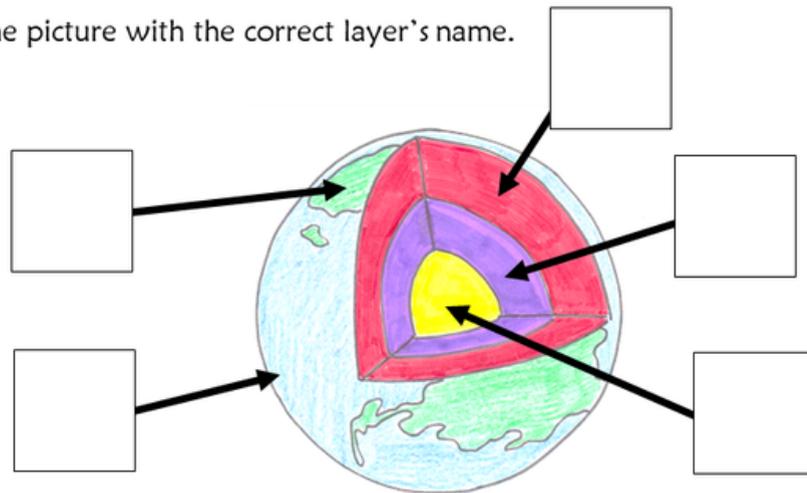
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Label each layer of the Earth.

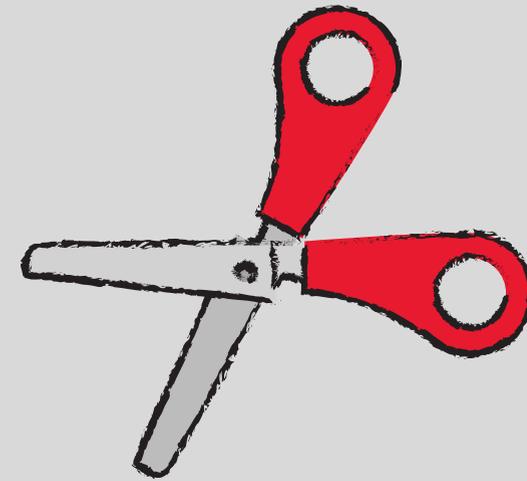


- | | | | |
|-------|--------|------------|------------|
| crust | mantle | Outer core | Inner core |
|-------|--------|------------|------------|

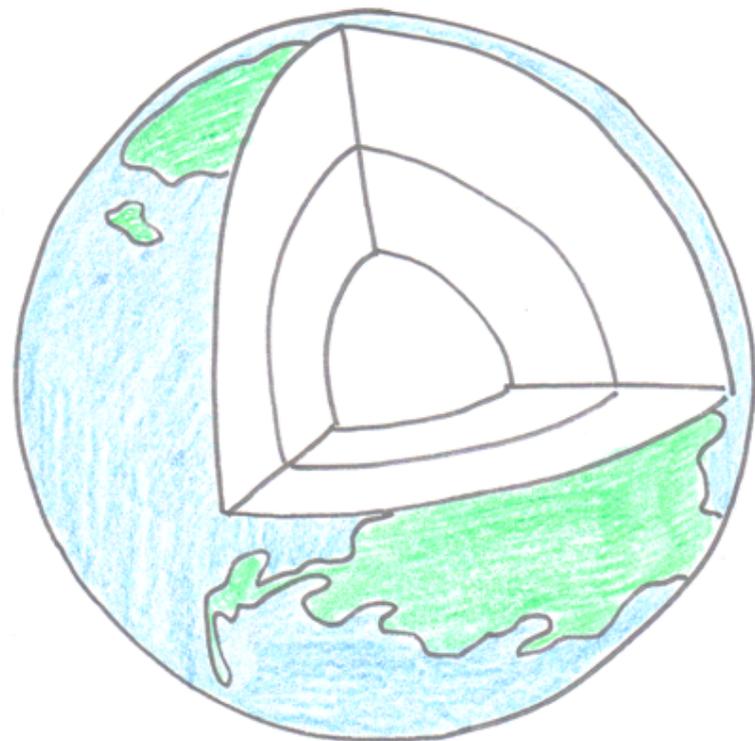
Match the picture with the correct layer's name.



There are labeling activities that come in several formats. Some use words and some use pictures.

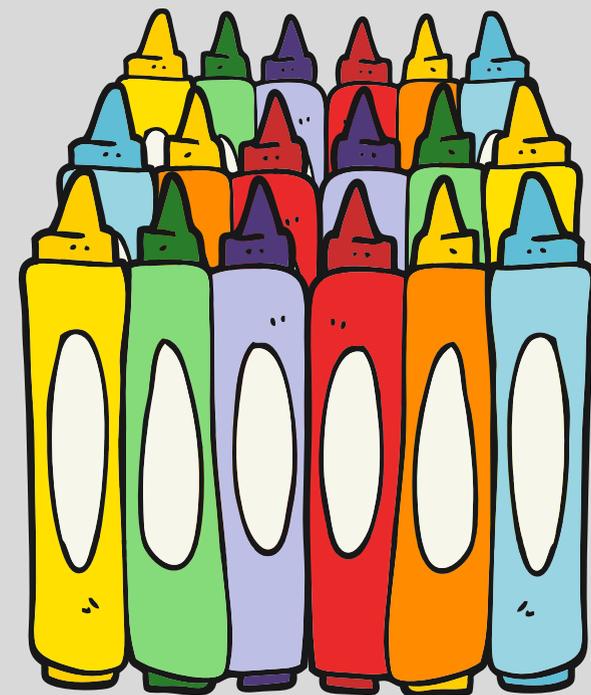


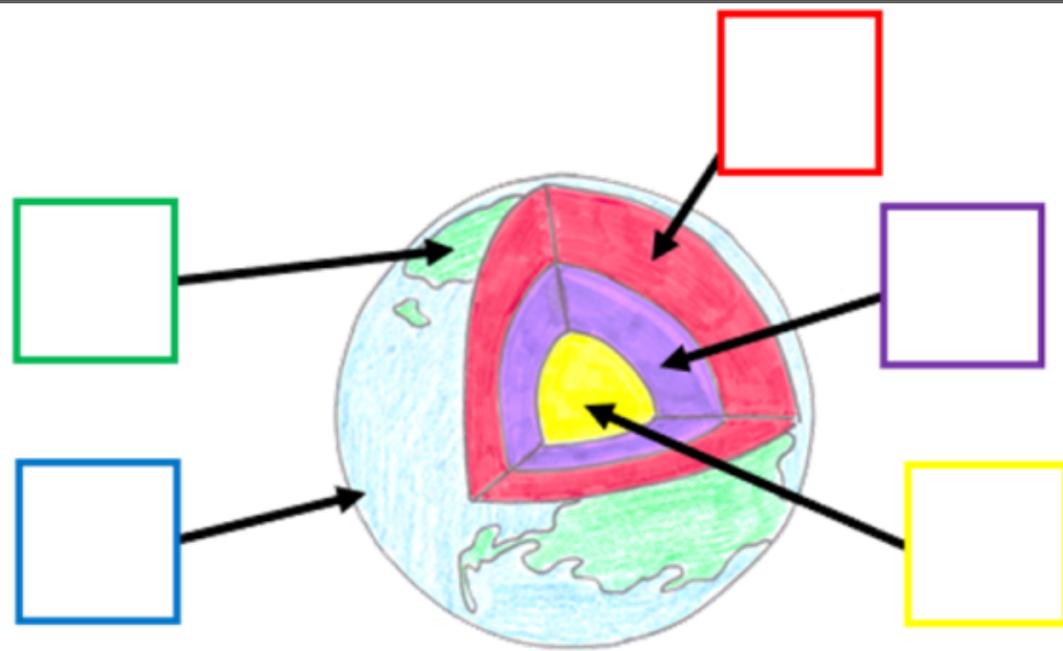
Follow the directions, and color in each layer as directed.



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

There is also a version for students to color themselves.

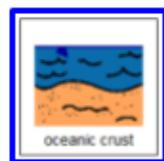




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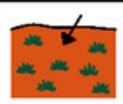
These labeling activities also come in a digital format. There is a differentiated copy as well using color coding as seen here.

Match the picture with the correct layer's name.

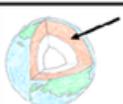
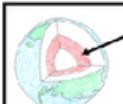


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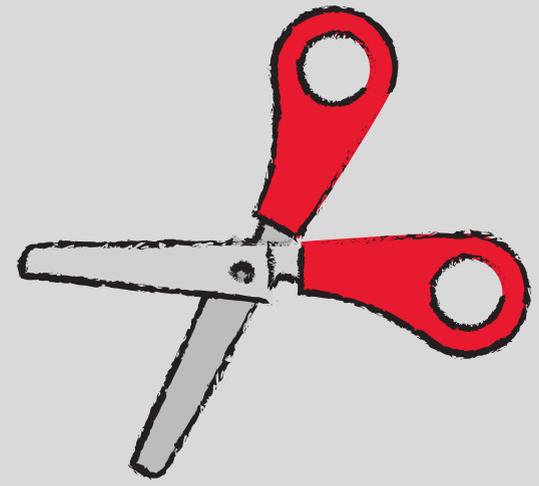
There are sorting activities where students sort the various characteristics of the different layers.

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|  crust |  inner core | | | |
|  as hot as the sun |  animals |  people |  hypothesize about |  continental |
|  under pressure |  center of Earth |  oceanic |  solid due to pressure |  plants |

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| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
|  mantle |  outer core | | | |
|  tectonic plates |  liquid |  mantle plume |  protect against solar winds |  source of earthquakes |
|  magma |  source of volcanoes |  magnetic field |  like Play-Doh |  fault |

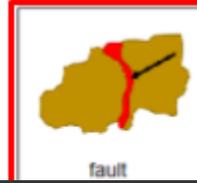
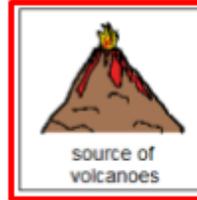
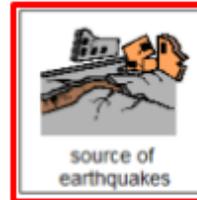
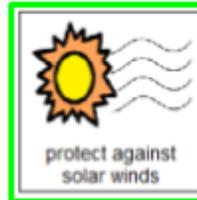
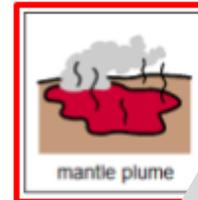
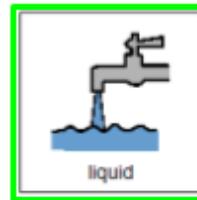
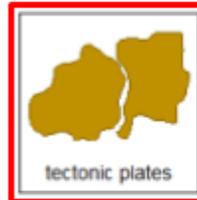
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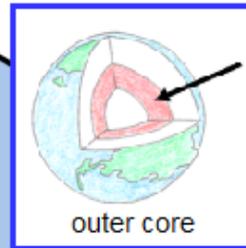
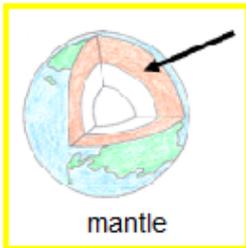
Day 10
differentiated

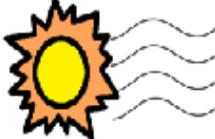
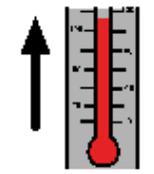
Sort the pictures into the correct column. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.



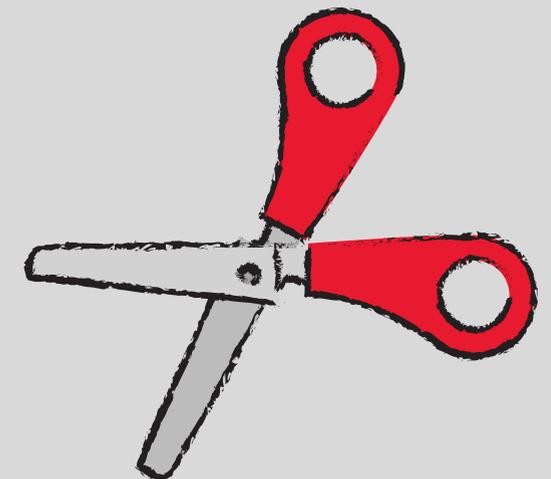
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The sorting activities are also in a digital version. The differentiated set has color coding.



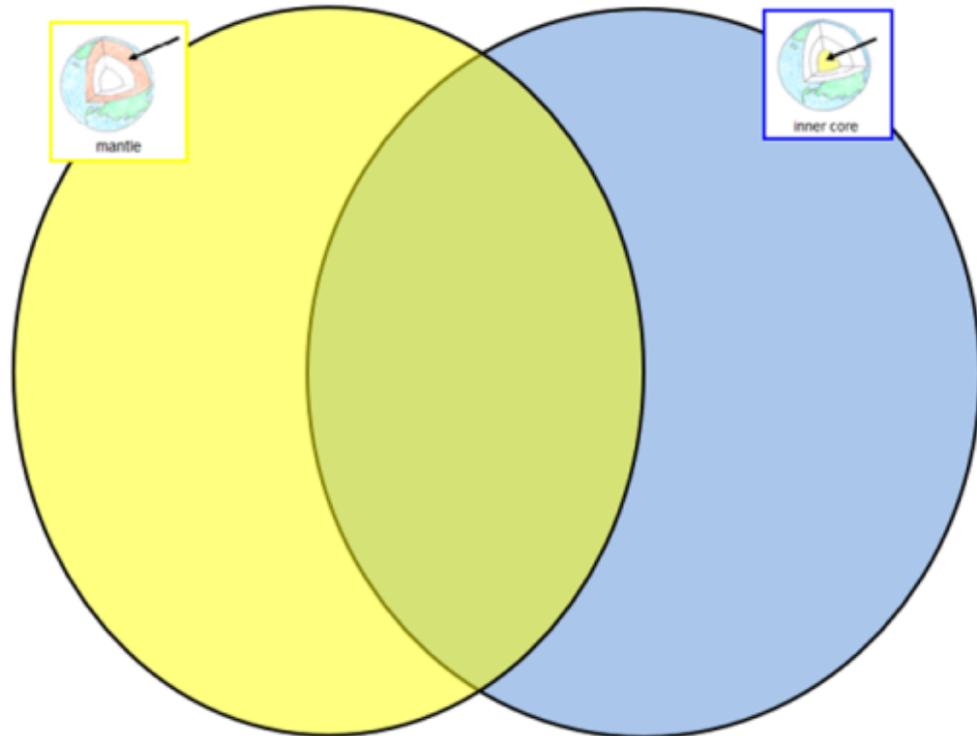
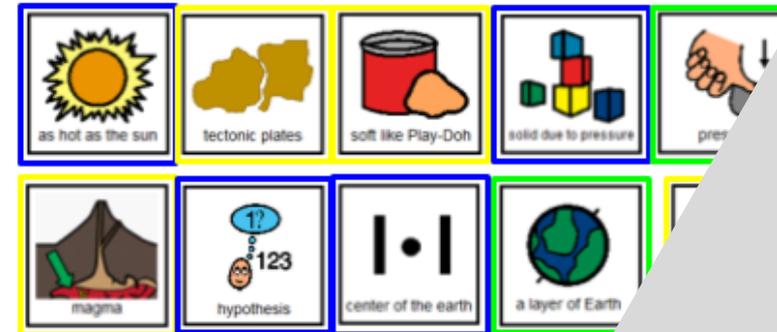
| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|  <p>pressure</p> |  <p>liquid</p> |  <p>mantle plume</p> |  <p>protect against solar winds</p> |  <p>no life</p> |
|  <p>magma</p> |  <p>source of volcanoes</p> |  <p>magnetic field</p> |  <p>under the crust</p> |  <p>fault</p> |
|  <p>hot</p> |  <p>tectonic plates</p> |  <p>hyporthesize about</p> |  <p>like Play-Doh</p> |  <p>source of earthquakes</p> |

There are 2 Venn diagrams included that have students compare and contrast 2 different layers. Each one comes with a color-coded version.



Day 12
differentiated

Place the pictures and glue in correct location of
Venn Diagram.



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The Venn diagrams are
also in a digital format.
They included the regular
and differentiated
versions.

Going Under the Crust



1. I took a trip to the layer .

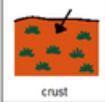
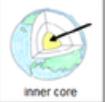
2. I had to go in a special .

3. It took 2 to get there!

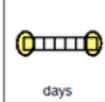
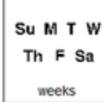
4. When I got there it was very .

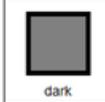
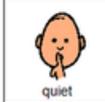
5. I brought some back with me.

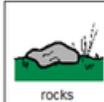
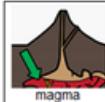
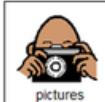
Have students pick one or more pictures for each question to complete the writing prompt on the previous page. They could also come up with their own answers!

1    

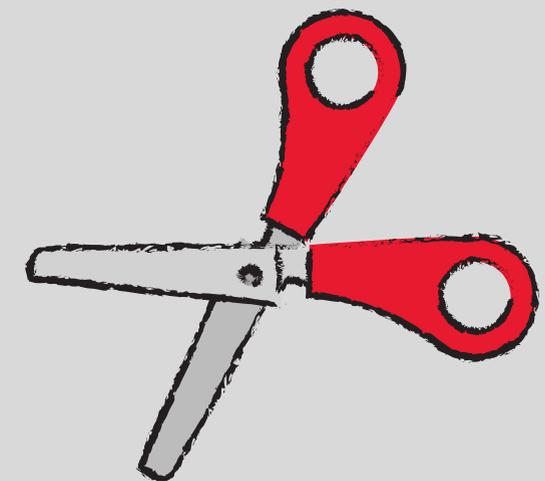
2      

3      

4      

5      

I thought it would be fun to include a writing prompt about traveling to the center of the Earth. This is an errorless activity.



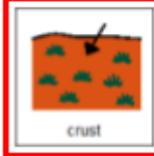
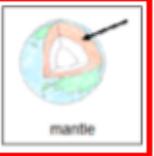
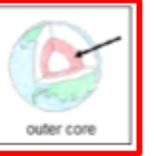
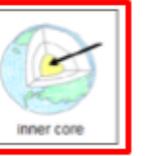
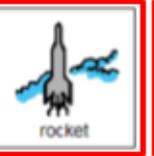
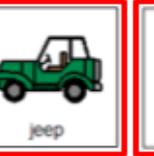
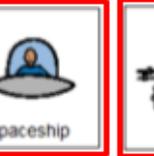
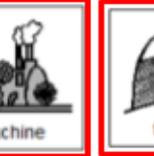
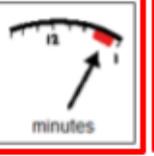
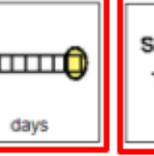
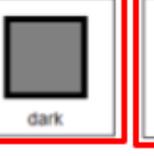
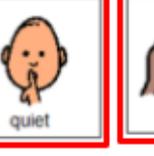
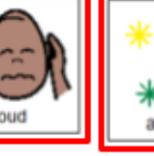
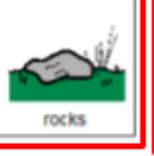
Going Under the Crust



Choose one picture from each line to complete each sentence.

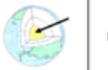
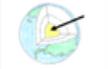
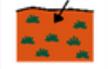
Day 13

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

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1 |  crust |  mantle |  outer core |  inner core | | |
| 2 |  rocket |  jeep |  spaceship |  machine |  tunnel | |
| 3 |  minutes |  hours |  days |  weeks |  months | |
| 4 |  hot |  dark |  quiet |  loud |  amazing | |
| 5 |  rocks |  magma |  clay |  fossils |  pictures |  videos |

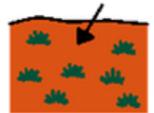
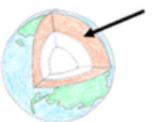
I even made this writing prompt digital. Since it is errorless there is not a differentiated version for this one.

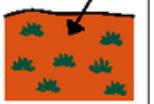
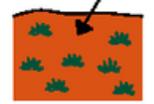
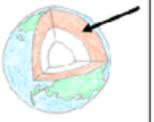
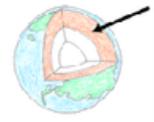
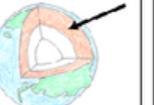
Layers of the Earth

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



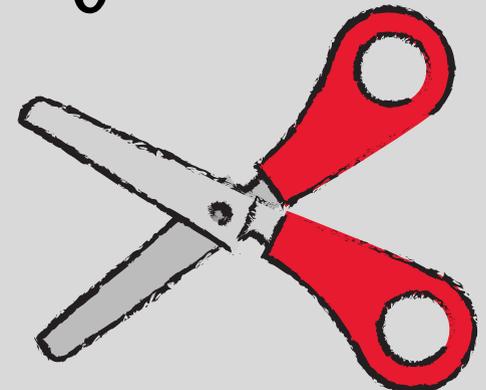
Layers of the Earth

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  pressure |  hot | | |
| | | | |
|  hot | |  crust |  mantle |
| | |  pressure | |

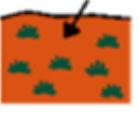
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  crust |  crust |  crust |  mantle |  mantle |
|  mantle |  pressure |  pressure |  hot |  hot |

There are 2 different vocabulary puzzles included. The first is a Sudoku puzzle that comes in 2 versions (6x6 and 4x4). This is a fun way to practice this new vocabulary.

Answer keys included.



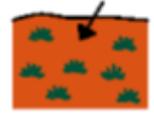
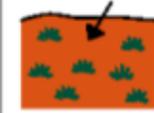
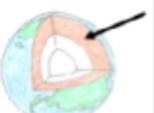
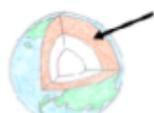
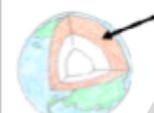
Layers of the Earth

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  pressure |  hot | | |
| | | | |
|  hot | |  crust |  mantle |
| | |  pressure | |

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Day 22
differentiated

Use the pictures to finish the Sudoku puzzle.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  crust |  crust |  crust |
|  mantle |  mantle |  mantle |
|  pressure |  pressure |  hot |
| | |  hot |

I made a digital version of the 4x4 Sudoku puzzle. There is a version with and without color coding.

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

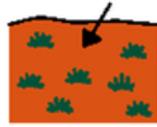
A E E P I C E N T E R L Q S M
N V Q T Y G H Z N E G X Z I B
B V K A X E X T I N C T M T D
H A S E I S M O G R A P H U I
Q G X D K D T F E K C R U S T
D O R M A N T V O L C A N O T
E W Q Q F V O X D S T Y H Z R
B M R E A R T H Q U A K E X A
A A N D M A N T L E O G J A C
V G E I W K Y E V M Z F T G T
B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

The other vocabulary puzzle is a word search. If this is too hard for your kids (it was for mine), then give them the answer key to highlight the circled words.

Answer key included.

Crust



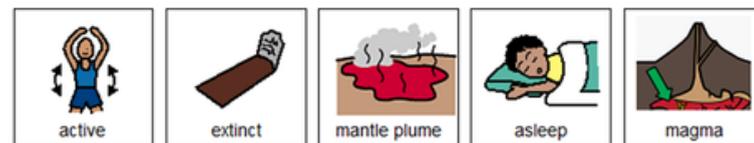
1. The crust is the layer.
2. The crust is where all are found.
3. The oceanic crust is found below the .
4. We live on the crust.
5. Scientists know about this layer.



Volcanoes

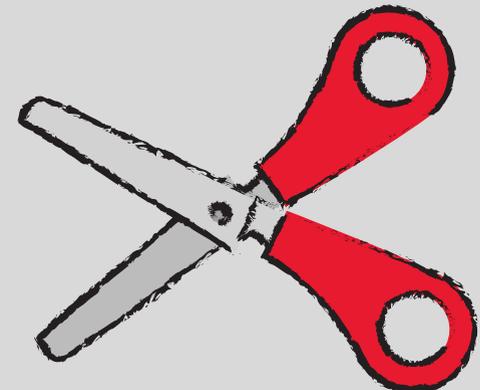


1. Volcanoes can form where there is a .
2. comes up from the mantle to escape.
3. volcanoes have erupted recently.
4. Dormant volcanoes are now but may erupt again.
5. Volcanoes that will probably never erupt again are .

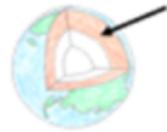


There are 6 close worksheets included for a review. 4 cover each layer of the earth, 1 is on volcanoes and 1 is on earthquakes.

Answer keys included.



Mantle



1. The mantle lies just below the .

2. The rocks in this layer are like .

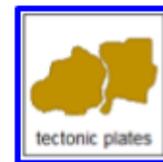
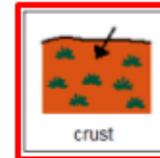
3. When the move they can cause changes on the surface.

4. Where two plates come together is called a .

5. The mantle is the layer.

Day 17
differentiated

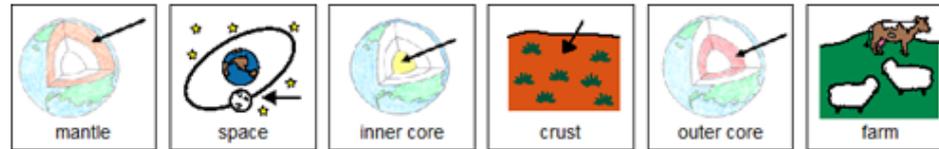
Use the pictures to finish each sentence.



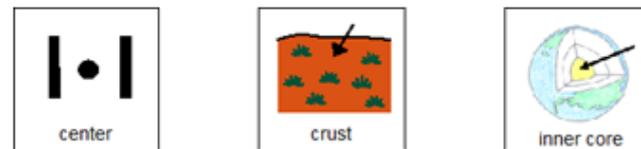
These fill in the blank worksheets also come in digital forms.

The differentiated versions use color coding.

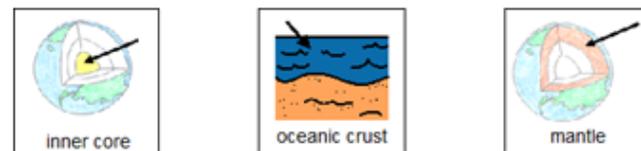
1. Circle all the layers of the Earth:



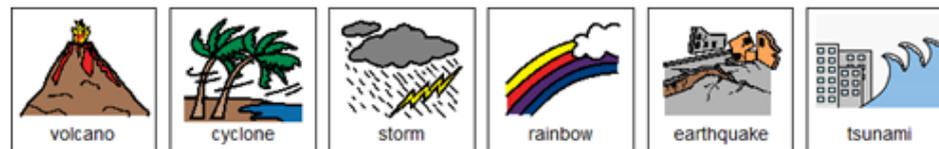
2. Circle the layer people, plants, and animals live on:



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:

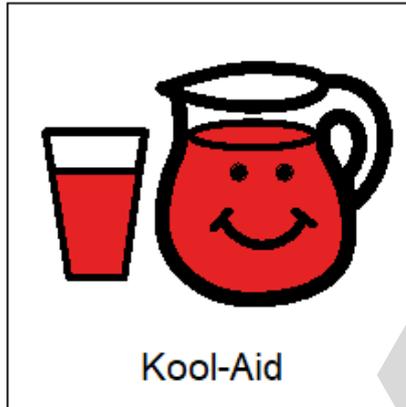
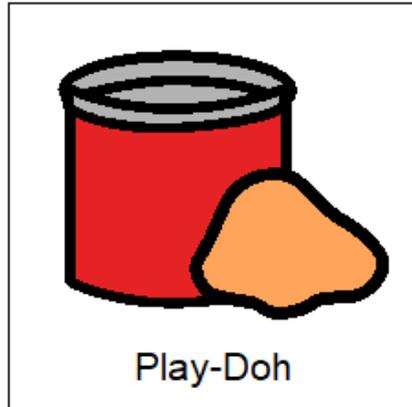
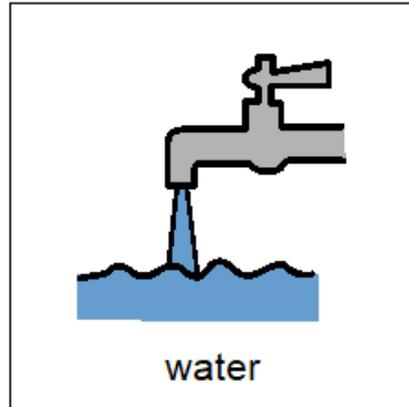


FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

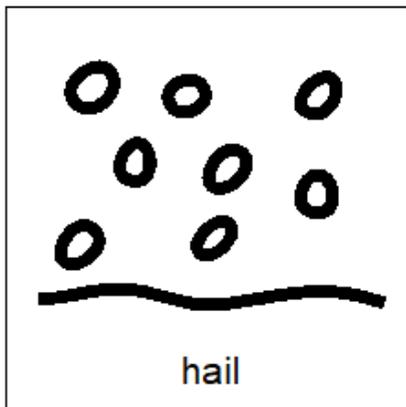
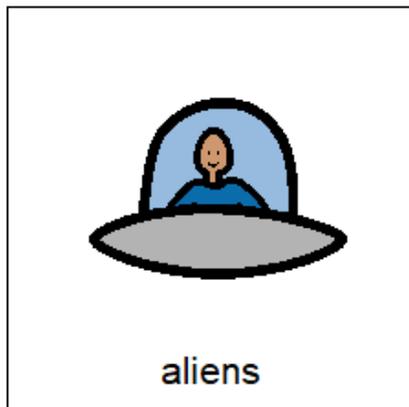
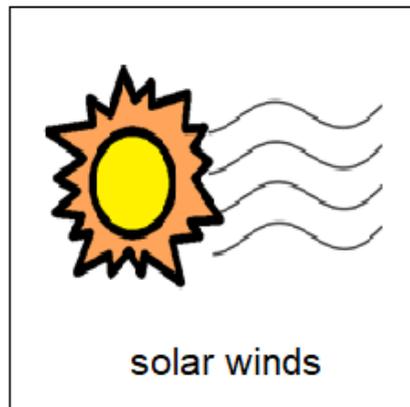
Answer key included.

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. Solae winds
B. Aliens
C. hail

There is also a traditional multiple choice version. You can also use this to record student answers if using the version with index cards.

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?



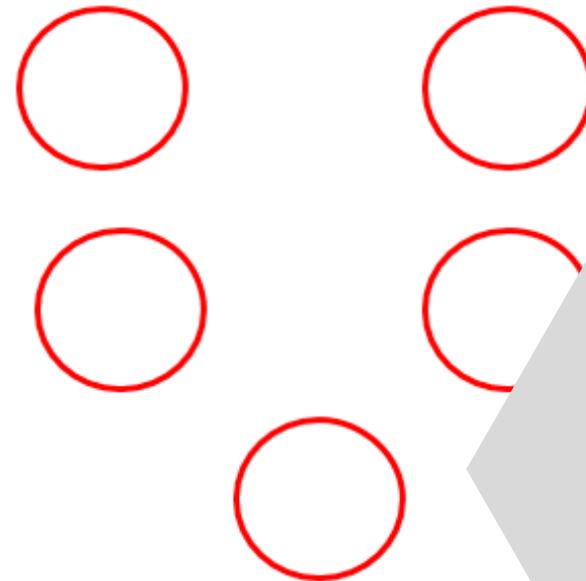
4. Circle all the things that can happen when the tectonic plates move:



5. The mantle is the consistency of:



Place a circle on the correct answer.



The digital version of the assessment looks like this. There is a differentiated version where the correct answers are already circled with a dashed line.



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!!

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