

Summary Information Sheet THE EARTH



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The Earth is the third planet from the Sun and is the only planet known to support life. Equally unique is the presence of a large amount of water in different conditions: liquid in lakes, rivers and oceans, frozen as ice and vapour in clouds. It gives Earth its blue colour and so our planet also is called the Blue Planet.



Rocky upper mantle
640 km thick with convection streams which move the plates

Magnetic field, shield and polar lights

North Polar ice cap (frozen ocean)

Rocky inner mantle
2290 km thick with convection streams

Mid-ocean ridge plate boundary

Molten outer core
1820 km thick

Crust
- oceanic 10 km thick
- continental 40 km
The crust is divided in about a dozen plates which are moving

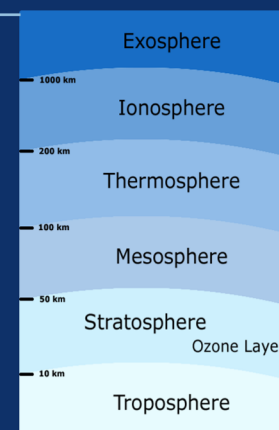
Solid inner core
7600 km diameter

Electrical currents in the core produce the magnetic field

Pacific Ocean
Part of the watershell
Hydrosphere 4 km

Continental and ocean crust boundary

~70 km thick
Atmosphere composed of
78% nitrogen
21% oxygen
0,9% argon
0,03% carbon dioxide

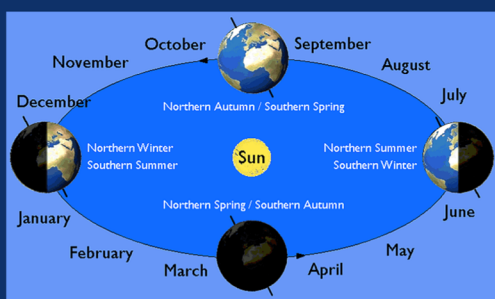


One revolution around the Sun lasts 365 days

South Polar icecap (frozen continent)

Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 23,5°

Atmosphere



Earth and seasons



Earth's crustal plates

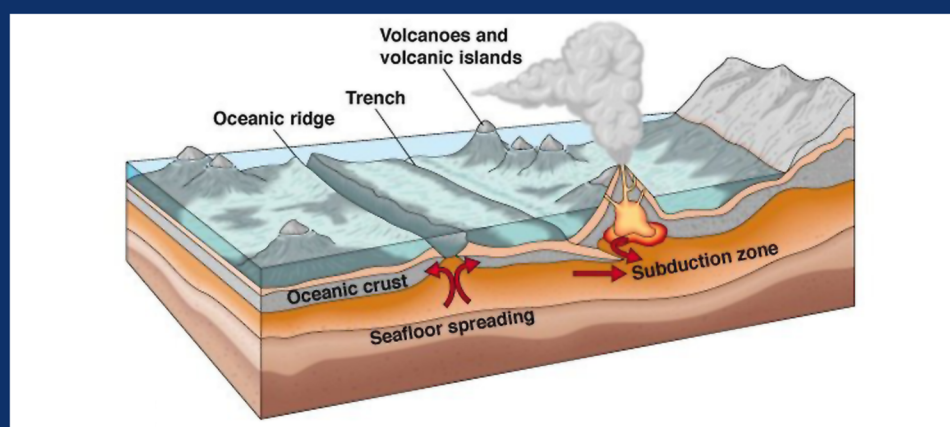


Plate tectonics

Physical Data

Property
Distance from the Sun
Rotation period
Equatorial Radius
Mass
Density
Satellites

Earth
150 million km
23 hrs 56 min
6378 km
5.97×10^{24} kg
5520 kg/m^3
1

For comparison

Venus
108 million km
243 days
6052 km
4.87×10^{24} kg
5240 kg/m^3
0

Mars
228 million km
24 hrs 37 min
3397 km
6.42×10^{23} kg
3940 kg/m^3
2