

# Summary Information Sheet THE EARTH



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

**Rocky inner mantle**  
2290 km thick with convection streams

**Molten outer core**  
1820 km thick

**Solid inner core**  
7600 km diameter

**Pacific Ocean**  
Part of the watershell Hydrosphere 4 km

**Continental and ocean crust boundary**

**Magnetic field, shield and polar lights**

**North Polar ice cap (frozen ocean)**

**Mid-ocean ridge plate boundary**

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

**Electrical currents in the core produce the magnetic field**

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

**Exosphere**  
1000 km

**Ionosphere**  
200 km

**Thermosphere**  
100 km

**Mesosphere**  
50 km

**Stratosphere**  
Ozone Layer

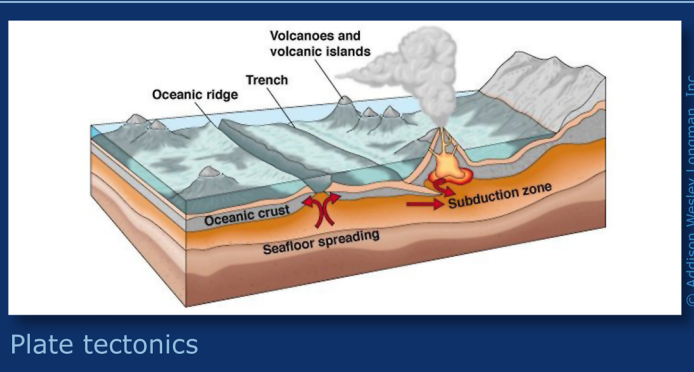
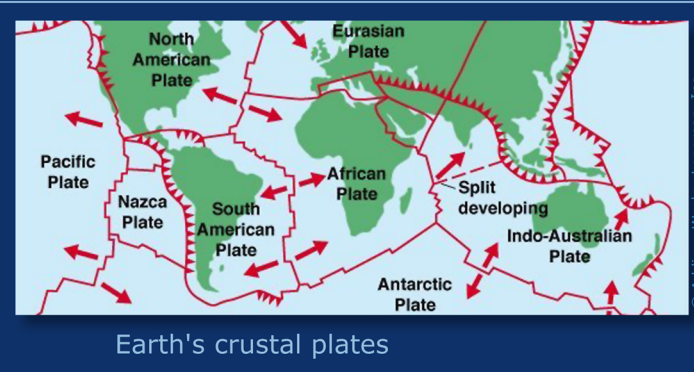
**Troposphere**  
16 km

**One revolution around the Sun lasts 365 days**

**South Polar icecap (frozen continent)**

**Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 23,5°**

**Earth and seasons**



Physical Data	For comparison		
Property	Earth	Venus	Mars
Distance from the Sun	150 million km	108 million km	228 million km
Rotation period	23 hrs 56 min	243 days	24 hrs 37 min
Equatorial Radius	6378 km	6052 km	3397 km
Mass	$5.97 \times 10^{24}$ kg	$4.87 \times 10^{24}$ kg	$6.42 \times 10^{23}$ kg
Density	5520 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	5240 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	3940 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Satellites	1	0	2