

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

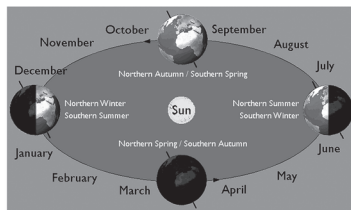
Rocky inner mantle
2290 km thick with
convection streams

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



Earth and seasons

One revolution
around the Sun
lasts 365 days

South Polar icecap
(frozen continent)

Magnetic field, shield and polar lights

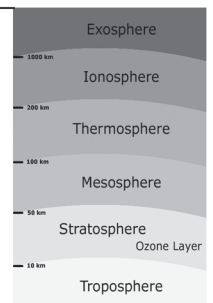
North Polar ice cap (frozen ocean)

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



Atmosphere

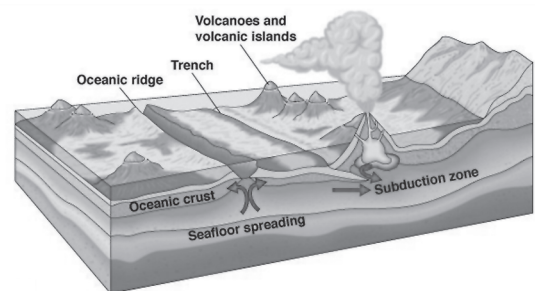
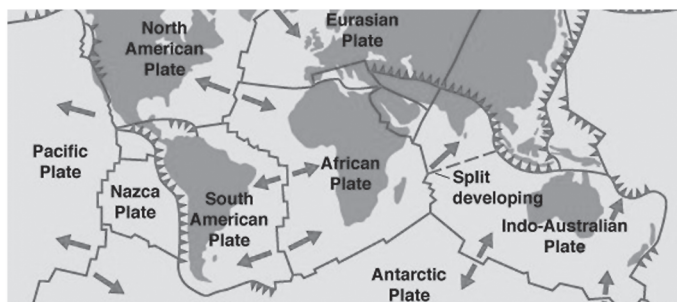


Plate tectonics



Earth's crustal plates

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	