

7 The layers of the Earth

Read the text and label the diagram with the correct information.

The Earth is the fifth largest planet in our solar system and the third planet from the Sun. The Earth is made up of three main layers. There is the crust which is the outer layer and is very thin, between 5 and 67 km thick. The crust consists of the land and sea. The land is mainly made up of two types of rocks: granite and basalt. Then there is the mantle. This is a thick layer which is about 3000 km thick that lies directly below the crust. It consists of hot dense rocks and compounds of magnesium, iron and silicon. The rocks of the mantle are much heavier than those in the crust. Lastly, there is the core. This is the centre of the Earth which consists of heavy metals. It has an inner and an outer layer. The outer core consists of molten rocks, iron and nickel and it is about 2000 km thick. The inner core is about 1500 km thick and is a solid structure containing nickel and iron. The temperature and pressure of the inner core of the Earth is so great that the metals are squeezed together making it difficult for them to move about like a liquid, instead they are forced to vibrate in one place like a solid.

- 1 1500 km thick
- 2 2000 km thick
- 3 3000 km thick
- 4 directly below the crust
- 5 granite and basalt
- 6 hot dense rock, compounds of magnesium, iron and silicon
- 7 inner core
- 8 land and sea
- 9 liquid, molten rocks, iron, nickel
- 10 metals vibrate in one place, like solid
- 11 outer core
- 12 outer layer, very thin, between 5 and 67 km thick
- 13 solid structure, nickel and iron
- 14 the crust
- 15 the mantle

