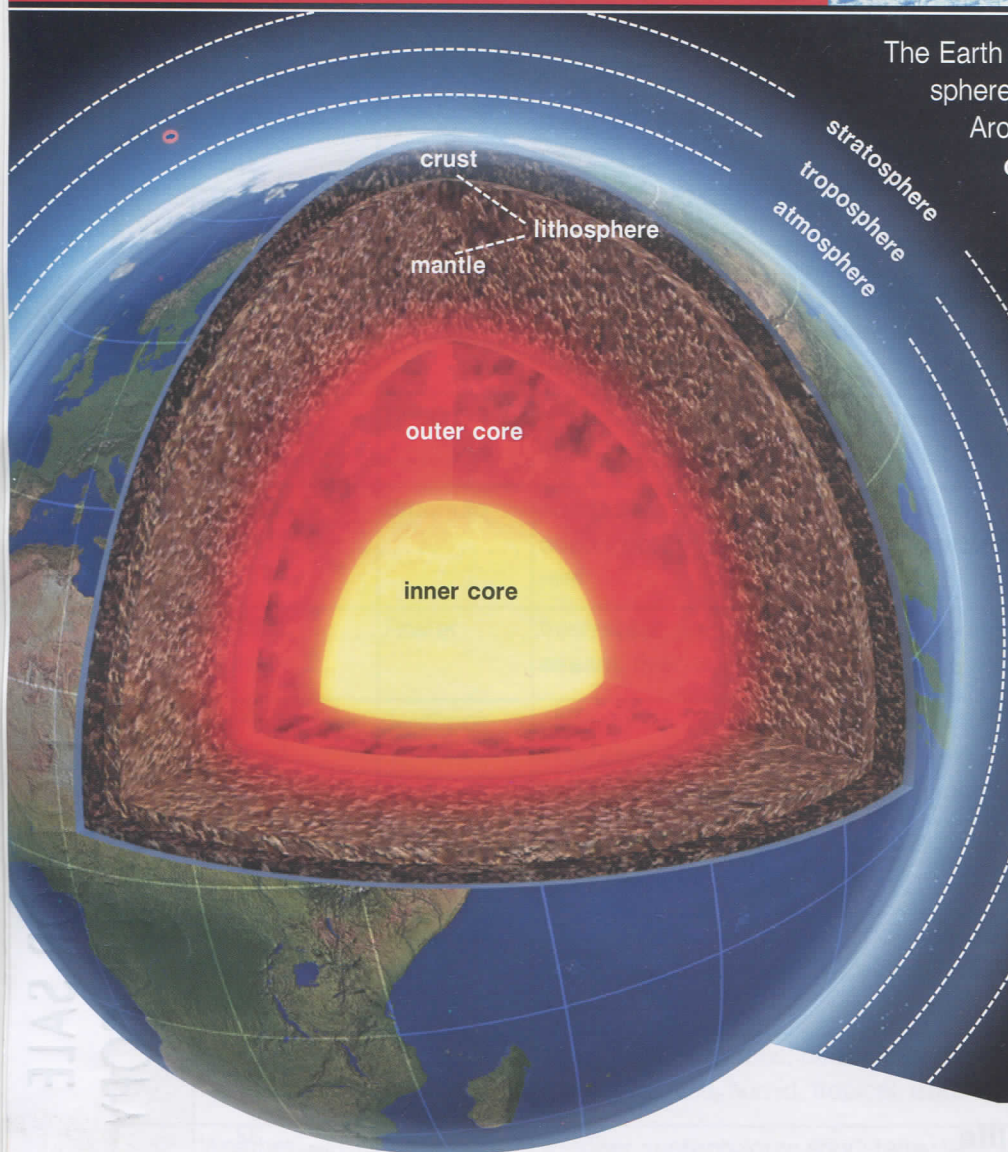


The Earth's Spheres



The Earth is made of several layers, or spheres. The hot **core** is at the center. Around the core is the **mantle** and the **crust**. The mantle makes up most of the Earth's volume. We see rocks and soil at the crust. The Earth's **lithosphere** is the rigid outer layer that is made up of the crust and the part of the mantle just below it. The core, mantle, and crust are the **geosphere**. Everything above the crust is part of the **biosphere** that supports life. Many living things exist underwater in the **hydrosphere**. The hydrosphere includes water vapor above the Earth, too. All around the Earth is the **atmosphere**. Most of the air is in the inner part, the **troposphere**. The outer part, the **stratosphere**, protects us from the sun.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What layers make up the lithosphere?
- 2 What is the thin layer of air around the Earth?

Reading

2 Read the textbook chapter. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The lithosphere is part of the geosphere.
- 2 ___ The biosphere is below the Earth's surface.
- 3 ___ Many living things exist in the geosphere.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 ___ crust | 4 ___ geosphere |
| 2 ___ mantle | 5 ___ atmosphere |
| 3 ___ biosphere | |

- A the layer of air around the Earth
- B the layer on the Earth that supports life
- C the Earth's surface and interior
- D the layer at the Earth's surface
- E the layer that makes up most of the Earth's volume

- 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

Word BANK

stratosphere lithosphere
core troposphere hydrosphere

- The _____ is at the center of the Earth.
 - Most of the Earth's air is in the _____.
 - The _____ includes rivers and oceans.
 - Life on Earth is protected from the sun by the _____.
 - The crust and the upper mantle make up the _____.
- 5 Listen and read the textbook chapter again. What are the parts of the atmosphere?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between an instructor and a student. Check (✓) the spheres that the man identifies.
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> biosphere | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> geosphere |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> troposphere | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> atmosphere |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> stratosphere | |

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Instructor: Leon, are you pretty comfortable with the spheres?

Student: I think so. I'll give it a try.

Instructor: Okay. What layer contains most of the 1 _____?

Student: Let's see. That's the 2 _____, right?

Instructor: You got it. And what larger sphere is it 3 _____?

Student: It's part of the 4 _____. No, wait, that's a separate layer.

Instructor: That's right. And they 5 _____ to which sphere?

Student: They're both part of the 6 _____.

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

What layer contains ...?
That's the ... right?
No, wait, that's ...

Student A: You are an instructor. Talk to Student B about:

- the Earth's spheres
- which layers belong to each sphere

Student B: You are a student. Talk to Student A about the Earth's spheres.

Writing

- 9 Use the textbook chapter and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the student's exam.



Exam 2

The Earth's Spheres

Name: _____

Describe a sphere of the Earth's surface:

Describe a sphere on the Earth's surface:

Describe a sphere above the Earth's surface:
