

The Earth's structure

Formed around **4.5 billion years ago**, Earth is the only planet in our solar system known to support life.

Earth has a **layered structure**. Each layer has unique chemical and physical properties.

Did you know ...?
If there was a queue of buses from the centre of the Earth's inner core to the crust, it would be 532,500 buses long.

Crust

The thin **outermost layer** of the Earth, where we live. Divided into: **continental crust** and **oceanic crust**.

0–70°C ●

Mantle

The **mostly solid** layer between the thin **outer crust** and the dense **core**. Made predominantly of **silicates**.

1400–3000°C ○

Core

Outer core: responsible for the Earth's **magnetic field**, the **outer core** mostly consists of **liquid** iron and nickel.

4000–6000°C ●

Inner core: although at a temperature well above the melting point of iron, the **inner core** is **solid**.

5000–6000°C ●

5–70 km **2900 km**

2200 km

1220 km