

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The Earth's crust is divided into two types of plates. What are these types of plates and what are they made of?

2. Fill out the diagram below with labels for each layer and put a star next to the thickest layer of the Earth.

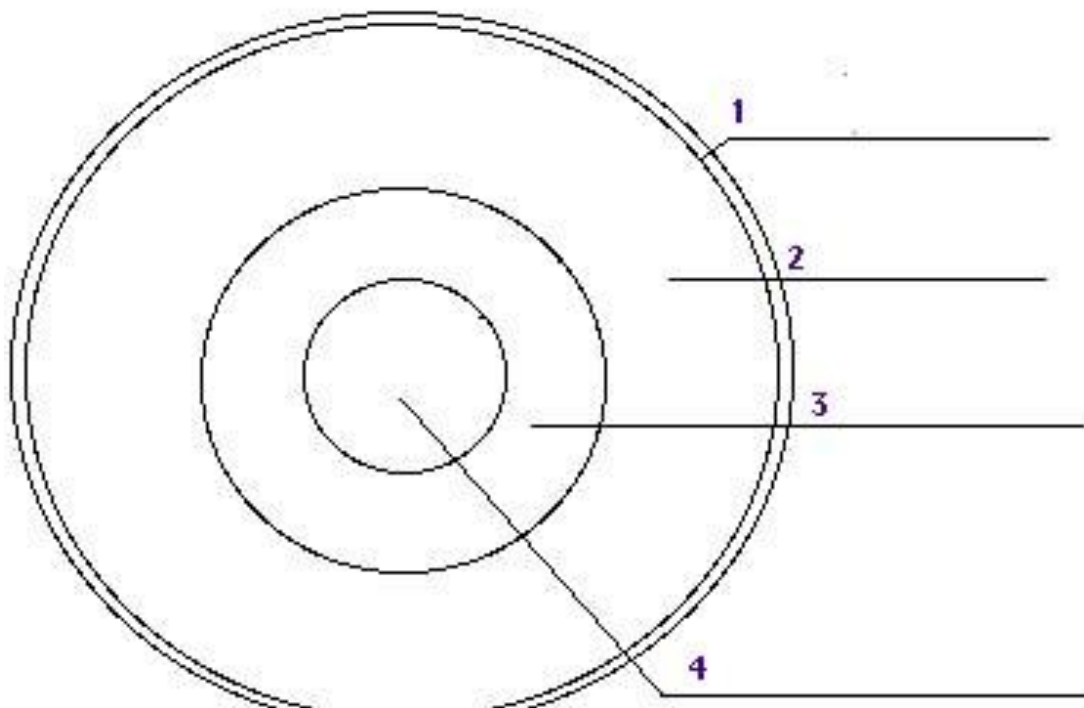


Diagram not drawn to scale

3.What does the outer core create?

4.The dense rock that makes up the Mantle is considered to be "Plastic". Why do scientists say that?

5.The inner core spins faster than the rest of the Earth, what does this have scientists speculate?

Answer Key

1. The two types of plates that make up the crust are ocean plates and continental plates. The ocean plates are made of basalt (frozen lava) and the continental plates are made of granite (frozen magma).
2. The layers of the earth are (1) crust (2) mantle (3) outer core and (4) inner core. The mantle (2) is the thickest layer
3. The outer core creates the earth's magnetic field.
4. The dense rock that makes up the mantle is considered "Plastic" because it can stretch, move, and flow but is still solid, just like a hot piece of plastic.
5. In result of the inner core spinning faster than the rest of the Earth, scientists speculate that this is why there is a change in the Earth's magnetic field.