

PLANET EARTH

BY AVALYN MCGINLEY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|--|--------|
| Composition of Earth | 1, 2 | Volcanoes | 17 |
| Earth's Crust | 3, 4 | Earthquakes | 18 |
| Earth's Composition and Crust | 5 | Weathering, Erosion, and Mountain Building..... | 19 |
| Mineral Uses..... | 6 | Soil Layers | 20, 21 |
| Minerals | 7 | Soil Observations..... | 22 |
| Rocks..... | 8 | Water and Soil..... | 23 |
| Grouping Rocks..... | 9 | Soil Conservation..... | 24, 25 |
| Rocks and Minerals..... | 10 | Plants and Erosion..... | 26 |
| Weathering and Erosion..... | 11 | Using Earth's Resources..... | 27 |
| Observing Weathering and Erosion..... | 12 | Soil and Soil Conservation..... | 28 |
| Effects of Wind and Ice..... | 13 | Planet Earth Background Material..... | 29 |
| Moving Water and Sediment | 14 | Answers | 31 |
| A Model Glacier..... | 15 | | |
| Mountain Building..... | 16 | | |

The activities in this book reinforce basic concepts in the study of the planet Earth, including the composition of Earth, Earth's surface, minerals, rocks, weathering and erosion, mountain building and earthquakes, soil and soil conservation.

General background information, suggested activities, questions for discussion, and answers are included.

Encourage students to keep completed pages in a folder or notebook for further reference and review.

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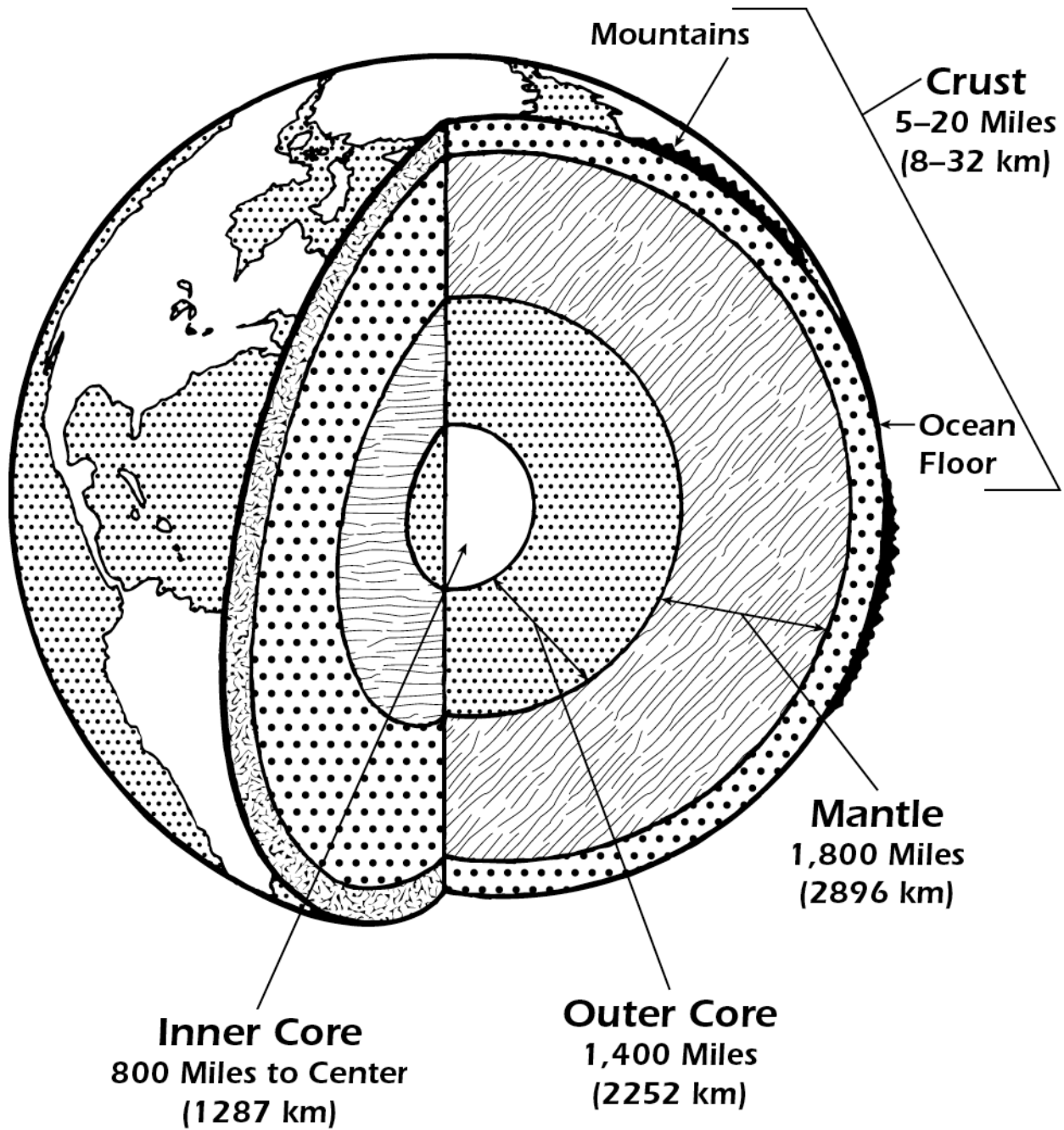
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PLANET EARTH

COMPOSITION OF EARTH



PLANET EARTH

COMPOSITION OF EARTH

Earth is made of solids, liquids, and gases. Write the following words in the correct spaces below: tree, rock, soil, air, water, ocean, mountain.

| Solid | Liquid | Gas |
|-------|--------|-----|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Earth's surface is covered by a thin layer of soil. If you dig down through the soil, you will find rock. Earth's outer layer of rock is called the **crust**. The crust is from 5 to 20 miles (8–32 km) thick. This is not very thick when you compare it with the distance to the center of Earth (about 4,000 miles or 6441 km). An oil-drilling machine can dig only several miles deep. The deepest hole ever made is not as deep as the highest mountain is tall.

The **mantle** is Earth's next section. It is solid rock except for the part next to the crust, where it is a thick liquid.

The center part of Earth is called the **core**. The outer part of the core is liquid and the center is solid. Temperature inside Earth gets hotter as you go deeper. It is around 9000°F (5000°C) in the center. (Your oven at home probably reaches 600°F.) It is so hot inside Earth that rock melts. This melted rock is called magma. It is called lava when it flows out to the surface.

1. Why would a person be unable to dig a tunnel all the way through the middle of Earth?

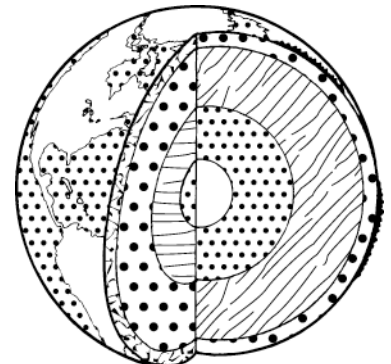
2. How much hotter is the center of Earth than your oven at home? _____

3. Using an apple as a model of Earth, what would the skin be called? _____

What would the center be called? _____

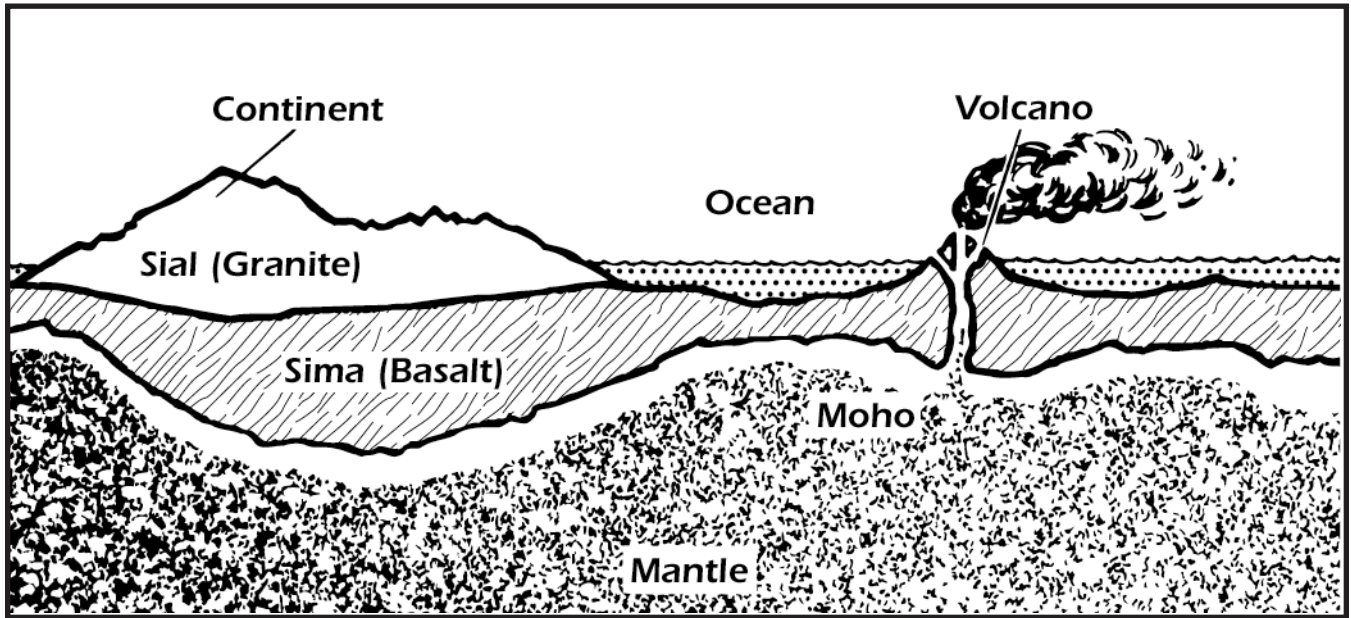
What would the fruit be called? _____

4. It is 2,800 miles (4505 km) across the United States. Is this farther than the distance from the surface to the center of Earth?



PLANET EARTH

EARTH'S CRUST



PLATES

