

CLASS - VII

SUBJECT: S.S. (GEOGRAPHY) Chapter-2 'Interior of the earth'

STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH

On the basis of composition properties of rocks and their density, the earth is divided into three concentric layers - crust, mantle and core.

The Crust

The crust or lithosphere is the solid outermost layer of the earth, composed of rocks and minerals. Its average thickness varies between 8 km to 50 km. The two distinct layers which the crust comprises are the upper continental crust or sial and lower oceanic crust or sima.

The Mantle

Below the crust lies the mantle. It extends upto a depth of about 2,900 km. Its chief constituents are silicates of iron and magnesium. The mantle has two parts - the upper mantle and lower mantle. The upper mantle is about 670 km thick, while the lower mantle is nearly 2,200 km thick. The top layer of the upper mantle is solid. Below this layer lies a soft layer. Because of the high temperatures in this layer, the rocks here are in soft state.

The Core

The innermost layer of the earth is called the core also known as center. It is about 3,500 km thick. It is believed to be made up of heavy metals.

like iron and nickel, and is called nife.

Tectonic Plates

Changes on earth's surface occur as a result of internal earth movements or tectonic movements. The earth's crust is fractured into several rock plates that float like icebergs on rafts on the upper mantle. The movement of these plates causes earthquakes and volcanoes among other geological occurrences. This Theory is called 'plate tectonics'.

HOME WORK

Note - Learn and write all these questions.

Ques. Answer these questions

- (i) Write the name of three layers of the earth,
- (ii) What is crust?
- (iii) Give the meaning of 'plate tectonics'
- (iv) Distinguish between Mantle and Core.

Ques. Fill in the blanks

- (i) Below the _____ lies the mantle.
- (ii) The _____ layer of the earth is called the core.
- (iii) The _____ has two parts.

Ques. Write true or false

- (i) The crust or lithosphere is the solid outer most layer of the earth.
- (ii) The lower mantle is nearly 2,400 km thick.
- (iii) The earth is divided into three layers.

Ques. Tick the correct option

- (i) Which layer of the earth is made up of iron and nickel?
(a) Crust (b) Lithosphere (c) Mantle (d) Core
- (ii) The average radius of the mantle is about,
(a) 2,800 km (b) 2,900 km (c) 3,500 km (d) 3,900 km.