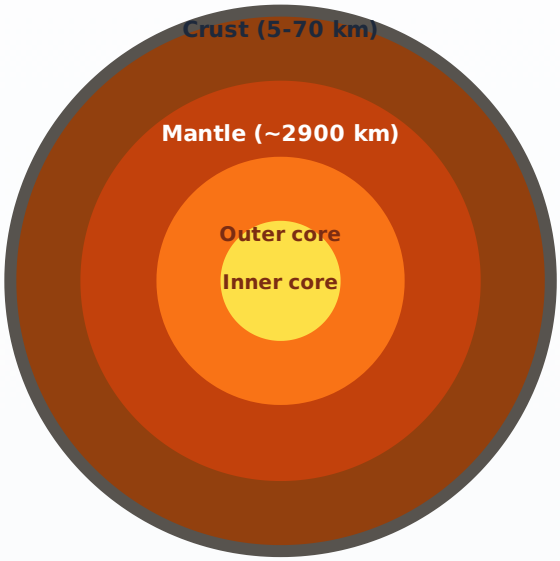
YEAR 6 - SCIENCE

Reference Card: Inside the Earth & the Ring of Fire

A one-page reference card for Lesson 8 covering Earth's four layers (with real depths and temperatures), tectonic plates, and the Pacific Ring of Fire. Gives students the factual background to label diagrams and explain why earthquakes and volcanoes cluster at plate boundaries.

Earth isn't solid rock all the way down — it's built in layers, like a giant peach, with a thin cracked skin we live on.



Earth's four layers (not to scale).

Layer	What it's like	Size / temperature
Crust	Thin, solid rock — where we live	5–70 km thick
Mantle	Hot, slow-flowing rock	~2,900 km thick
Outer core	Liquid metal (iron & nickel)	~2,200 km thick
Inner core	Solid metal	about 5,500°C

The crust is cracked into about **15 large tectonic plates** that float on the mantle and move a few centimetres a year — about as fast as your fingernails grow.

The Ring of Fire

A horseshoe-shaped zone around the Pacific Ocean where plates collide. It holds about **75% of the world's volcanoes** and produces around **90% of all earthquakes**. That's why these events cluster at plate edges, not randomly.