



# EARTH'S INTERIOR NOTES

# EARTH'S LAYERS

## VOCABULARY

Inner core – a ball of hot solid metal at the center of the earth

Outer core – liquid layer of metal that surrounds the inner core


Mantle – earth's thickest layer between the outer core and crust made of magma

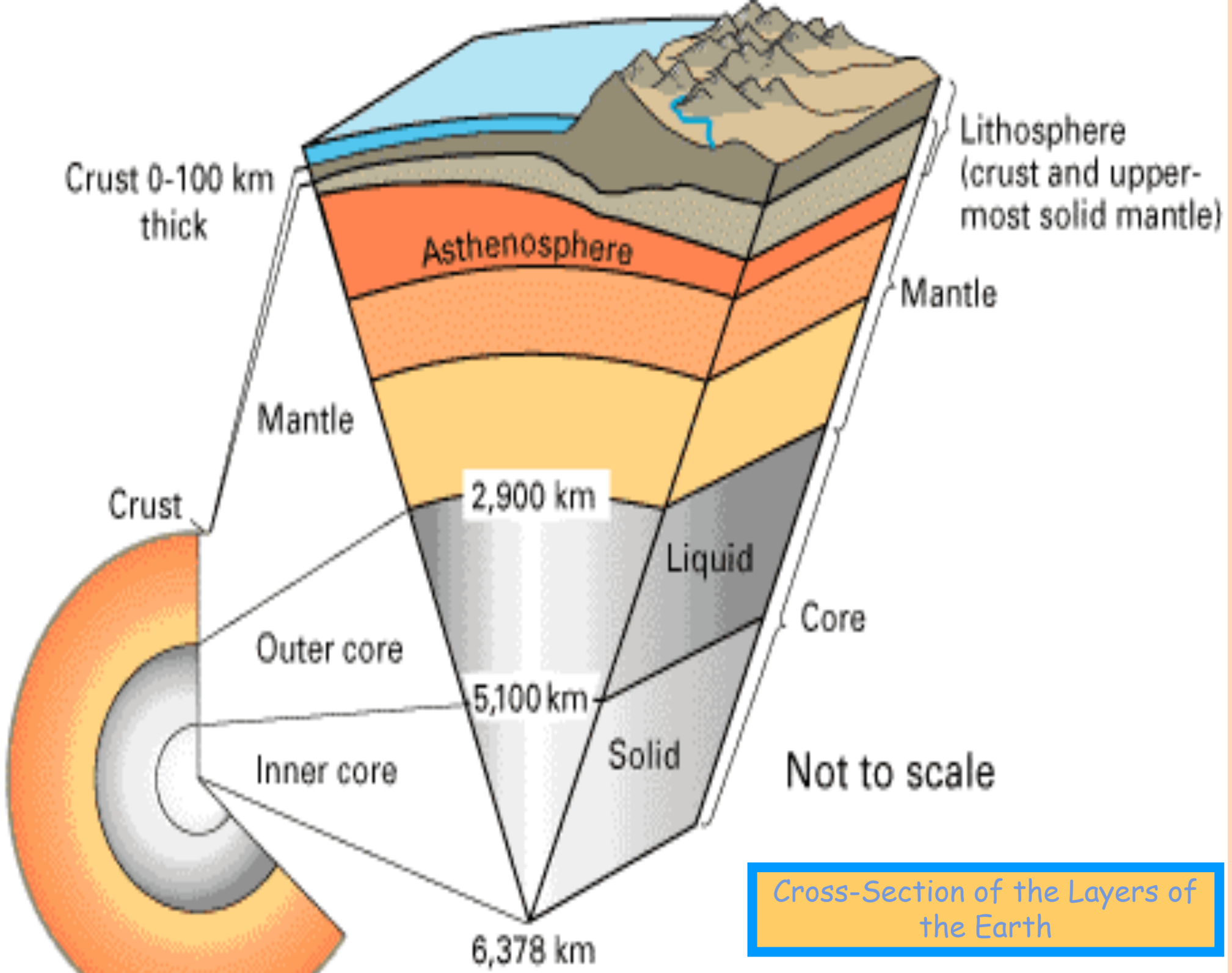


Crust – the top layer of earth  
made of a thin layer of cool  
rock

Lithosphere – the layer of earth  
made of the crust and the rigid  
rock of the upper mantle which  
is broken into tectonic plates

Asthenosphere – the layer in  
earth's upper mantle directly  
under the lithosphere in which  
rock is soft and weak because it  
is close to melting





Cross-Section of the Layers of the Earth

scale

Tectonic plates – the process in which the motion of a hot material under the crust changes the crust of the Earth. These are called plate tectonics

Continental drift – a hypothesis that Earth's continents move on the surface

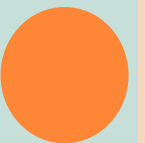
Fault lines – a crack in Earth's surface





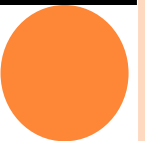
Pangaea – a hypothetical supercontinent in which all continents were once attached. It began breaking apart about 200 million years ago

Convection – a process by which energy is transferred to cause warmer less dense air or liquid to rise while the dense cooler liquid or air is pushed down.



# Data Table

| Depth    | Name of Layer          | What Layer is Made Of                 |
|----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 20 km    | crust                  | solid rock, mostly granite and basalt |
| 150 km   | asthenosphere (mantle) | soft slow flowing material            |
| 2,000 km | mantle                 | hot, but solid material               |
| 4,000 km | outer core             | molten iron and nickel                |
| 6,000 km | inner core             | solid iron and nickel                 |



# What are the layers of the Earth?

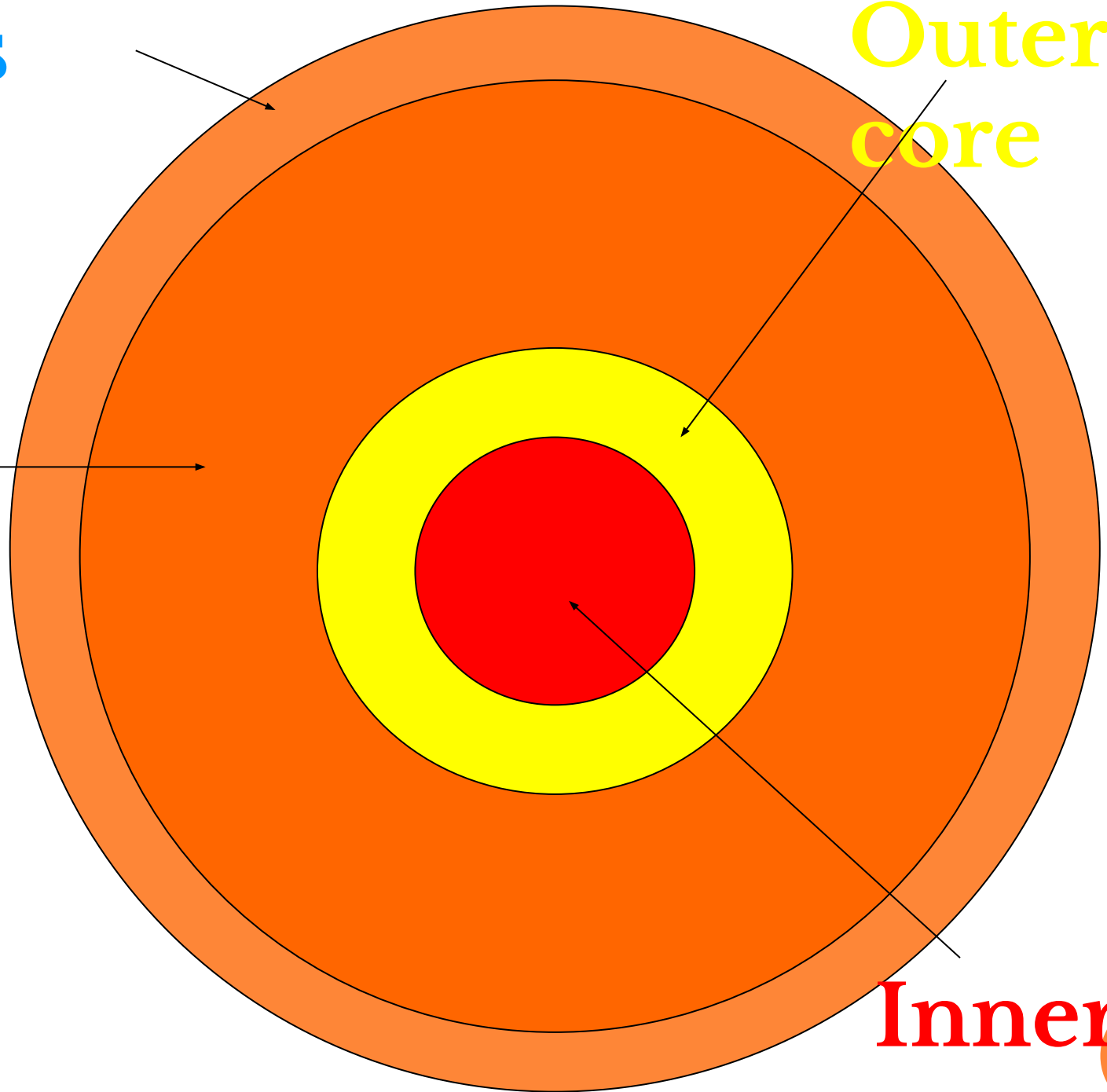




**Earth's  
Crust**

**Outer  
core**

**Mantle**



**Inner  
core**