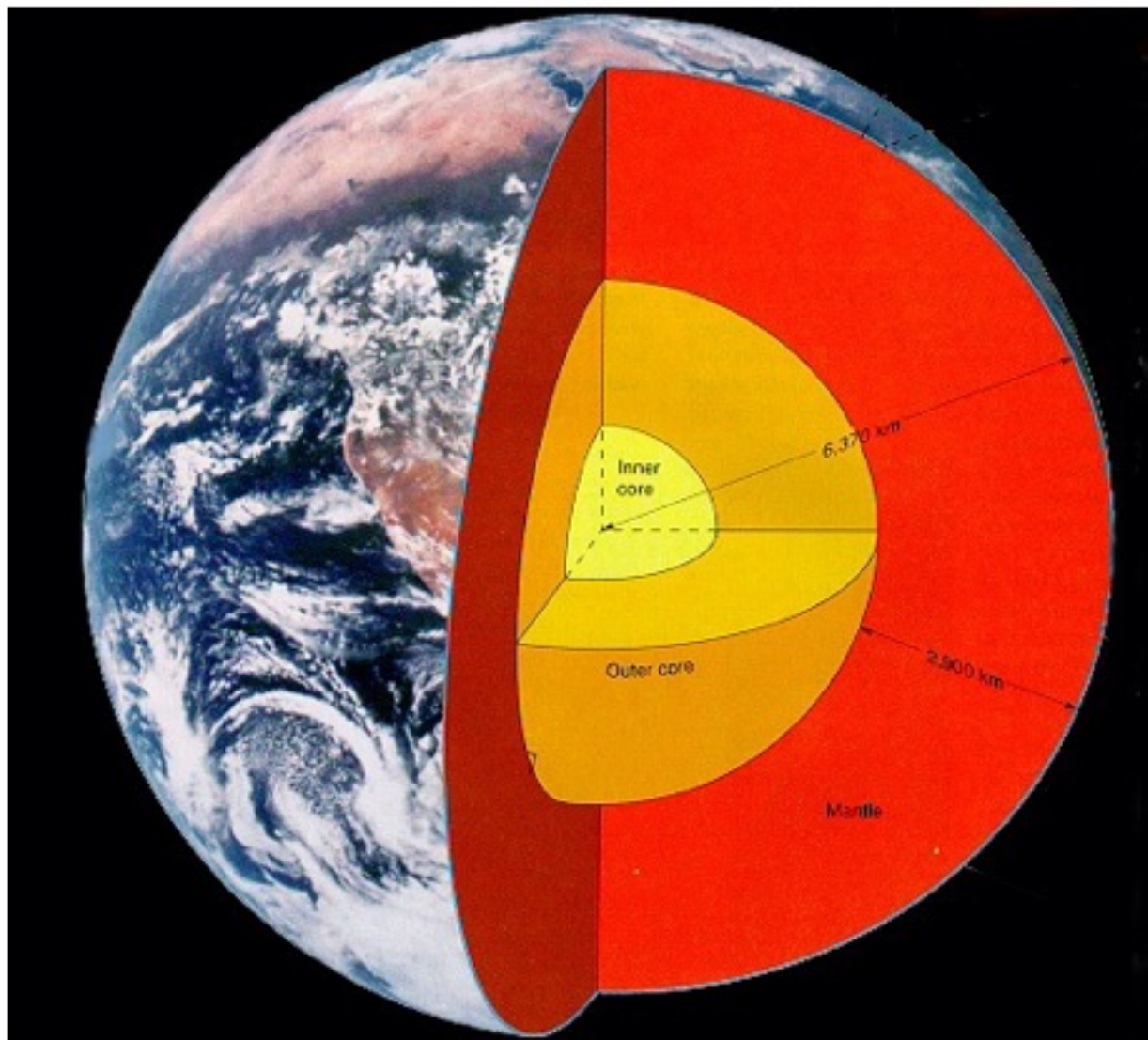


Natural Disasters



Glenda

EARTHQUAKES

What Is An Earthquake ?

Earthquakes are natural disasters that are in the ground. They happen when sections of the Earth's outer shell, called tectonic plates, suddenly move and trigger vibrations inside Earth. At the Earth's surface the vibrations turn into shaking, which may last from a few seconds to several minutes. The effects of an Earthquake are often minor, but they can sometimes be catastrophic. They can cause the land to change its shape and make buildings fall down, leading to huge loss of life.

Fault Lines

Fault lines can also cause an Earthquake. Fault lines are fractures in the Earth's crust, where rocks are on either side of the crack that have slid past each other. Sometimes the cracks are tiny, as thin as hair, with barely noticeable movement between the rocks layers. But faults can also be hundreds of miles long, such as the San Andreas Fault in California and the Anatolian Fault in Turkey. There are three kinds of faults: normal fault, reverse fault and strike-slip fault. Each type is the outcome of different forces, pushing or pulling on the crust, causing rocks to slide up, down or past each other. Strike-slip faults indicate rocks are sliding past each other horizontally, with little to no vertical movement. Both the San Andreas and Anatolian Faults are strike-slip. Normal faults create space. Two blocks of crust pull apart, stretching the crust into a valley.

How Can You Avoid An Earthquake?

If you are indoors, stay there. Quickly move to a safe location in a room such as a strong desk, a strong table or along an interior wall. The goal is to protect yourself from falling objects and be located near strong points of the room. Avoid taking cover near windows, large mirrors or hanging objects. If you are outdoors, move to an open area where falling objects are unlikely to strike you. Move away from buildings, power lines and trees.



VOLCANOES

What Is A Volcano?

A Volcano is one of the most extraordinary features on Earth, but it can also be one of the most terrifying. When a Volcano erupts, hot liquid rock called magma escapes through holes in the Earth's surface. A volcanic eruption can be violent, pushing huge amounts of ash and gas high into the sky, but some eruptions are less dramatic, producing long, oozing flows of lava.

Volcanoes can form steep cone shapes or have gentle, sloping sides. There are hundreds of Volcanoes on land but there are many more hidden depths of the ocean.

How Do Volcanoes Occur?

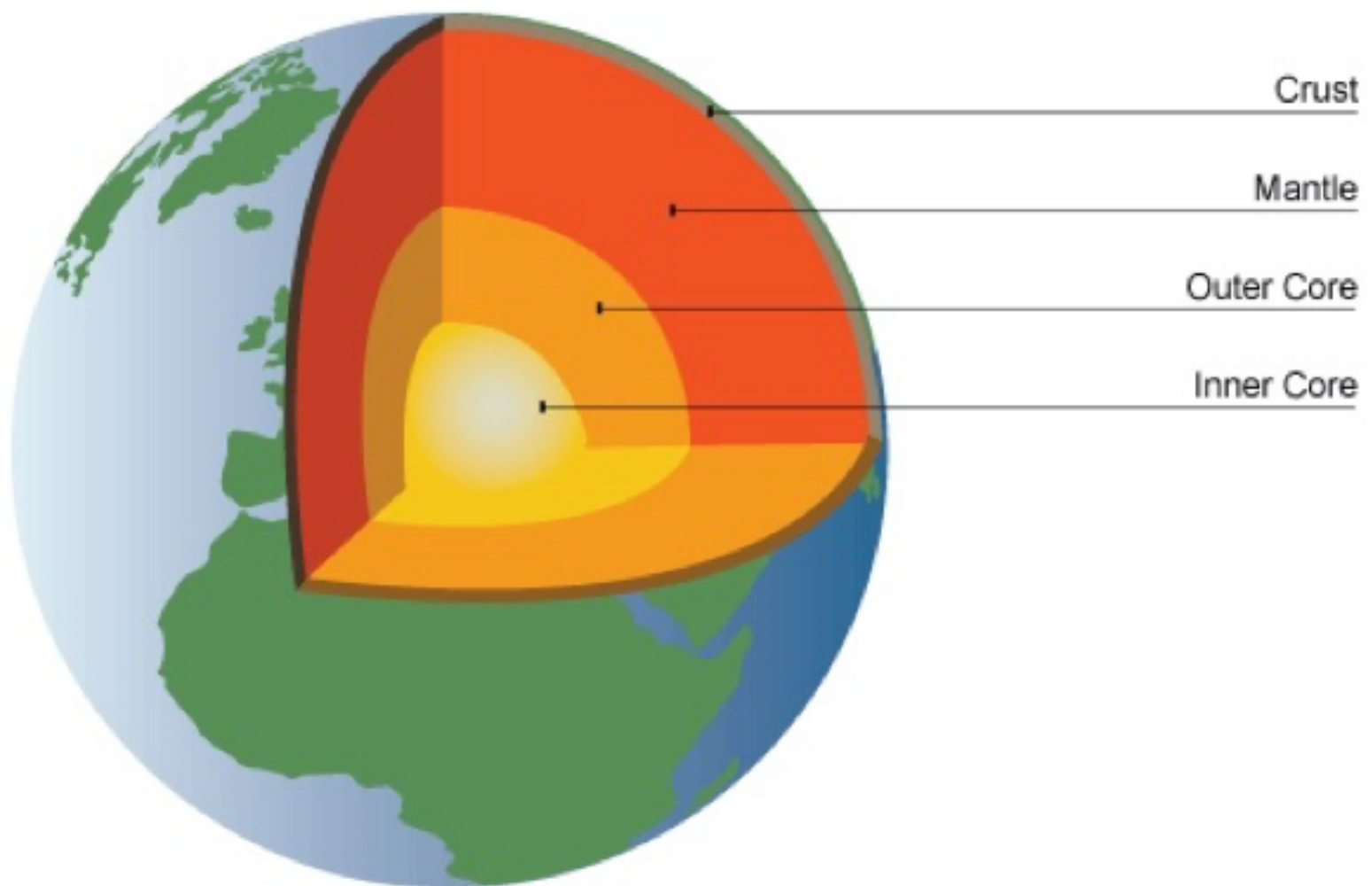
The Earth is made of many rocky layers. The solid, outer layer is called the crust. Below the crust lies a layer of very hot, almost solid called the mantle. Beneath the mantle lies the Core. The outer core is a liquid mix of iron and nickel, but the inner core is solid metal. Sometimes, hot molten rock, called magma, bursts through the Earth's surface in the form of a Volcano.

What Is Lava?

When hot, liquid rock (magma) erupts from a Volcano onto the Earth's surface is called lava. If there is pressure inside the Volcano, this red-hot, glowing liquid may spurt into the air like a fountain. If there is less pressure, the lava may flow out of the Volcano's vent (opening). Most of the lava then runs down the side of the Volcano like a hot, glowing river. This is called lava flow. As the lava cools, the flows slow down and thicken, before it stops and eventually turns back into solid rock.

Different Types Of Volcanoes

There are three different types of Volcanoes called, active, dormant and extinct. An active volcano is a volcano that has had at least one eruption during the past 10,000 years. An active volcano might be erupting or dormant. A dormant volcano is an active volcano that is not erupting, but supposed to erupt again. An extinct volcano has not had an eruption for at least 10,000 years and is not expected to erupt again.



TSUNAMIS

What Is A Tsunami?

A Tsunami is a powerful wave that can sweep over everything and destroy buildings, cars and loads of people.

How Does A Tsunami Occur?

A Tsunami can occur by an Earthquake under the sea floor. If the Earthquake is powerful enough, the sudden movement of the ocean floor can cause the water above to surge upwards then fall back, resulting a Tsunami is going to happen. Tsunamis start very broad, fast-moving waves. At this stage, they are so low in height that in the open sea they pass ships without being noticed. When they reach shallow water, they slow down and begin to rise to a terrifying size, with waves up to 60m.

