
DYNAMICS OF THE EARTH

The internal energy of the Earth

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The layered structure of the Earth

The Earth consists of three main layers: **crust** (continental and oceanic), **mantle** and core.

The Earth's crust is attached to the upper part of the mantle, forming the **lithosphere** (continental and oceanic).

The lithosphere is broken up into massive pieces called tectonic or lithospheric plates.

The lithosphere can slide over the sublithospheric mantle.

The internal energy of the Earth

The internal thermal energy of the Earth can be seen in:

- Volcanic activity
- Very hot rock underground
- Earthquakes
- Continental drift
- Mountain formation