Let’s *discover* Earth’s layers! Our planet is comprised of a crust, mantle, outer core and inner core.

**The crust** is the outermost layer of the Earth. It is like the skin of an apple and is extremely thin compared to the other layers. The crust is about 10 miles deep and is made up of rock and other loose materials.

**The mantle** is the next largest layer, and it is the largest – an estimated 1,800 miles of solid hot rock.

**The outer core** exists under the mantle and is composed of about 1,400 miles of liquid molten lava, which consists of iron and nickel.

**The inner core** is the center-most layer of the Earth and is a solid ball of metal.

When learning about the Earth’s layers, it helps to have a replica. Here is what you’ll need:

– At least four different colors of clay (five if you want to mold the continents on the crust.)
– A knife

First, roll the clay that will be the inner core into a ball. Then flatten the clay that will be the outer core. Once flat, place the clay around the inner core. Continue with the other layers. Once it is complete, you should have one ball of clay that looks like the Earth. With a knife, slice down the middle of the ball until you have two halves. It might be helpful to label each layer to reinforce the lessons about the components that make up the Earth.