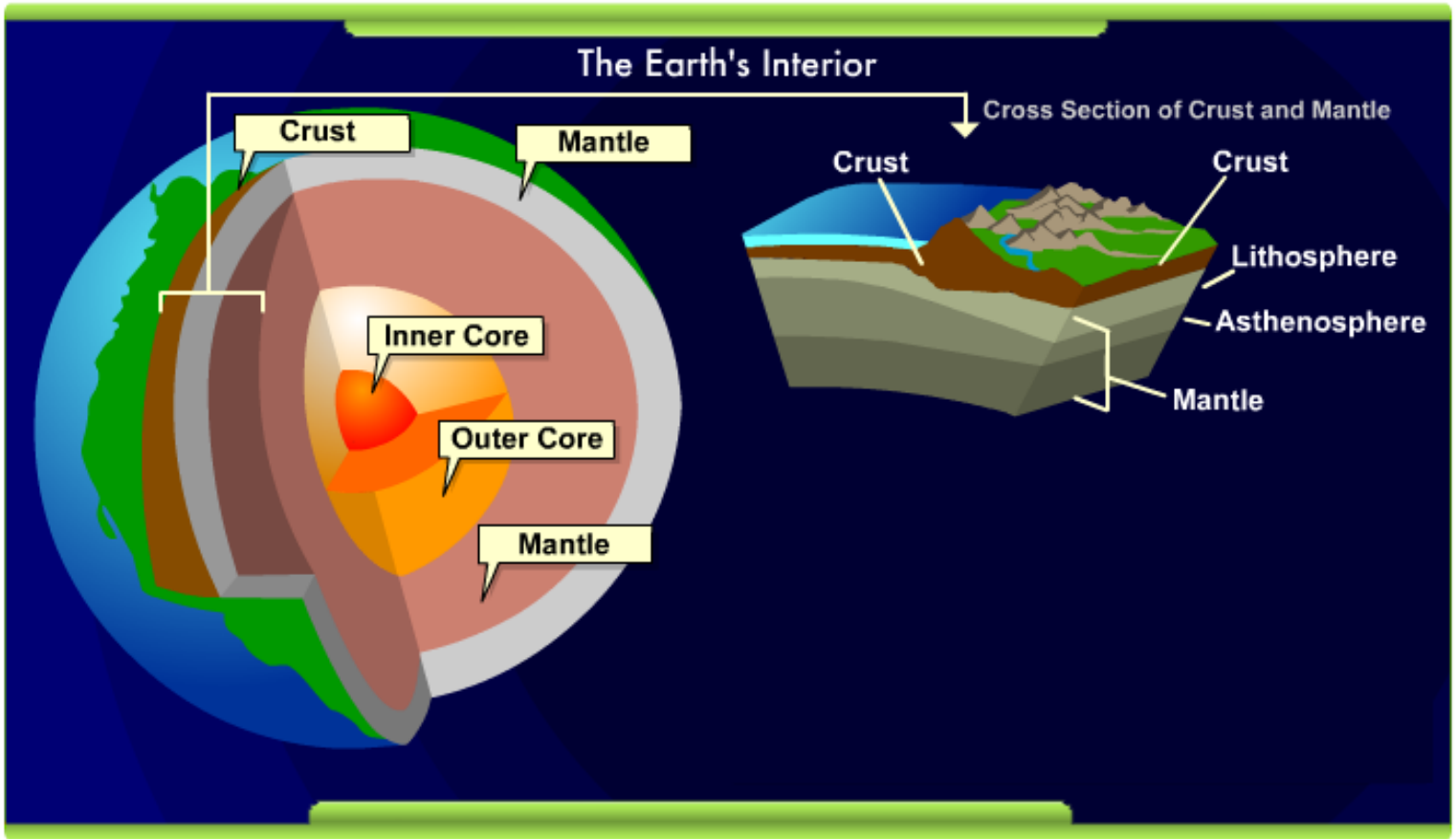


The Earth's Layers



Inner Core: An extremely hot solid sphere of mostly iron and nickel at the center of the earth. It is 150 to 6,378 Km below the surface and is about 1,200 km in diameter.

Outer Core: The outer core is the only liquid layer of the earth- a sea of mostly iron and nickel. It is roughly 2,890 to 5,150 km below the surface and about 2,300 km thick.

Mantle: Subdivided into two regions – the upper mantle and the lower mantle. The mantle is a dense layer made of hot, semisolid rock below the crust. It is about 2,900 km thick.

Convection Currents: The circular movement of heat deep within the earth (mantle).

Crust: Hard and rigid, it's the earth's outermost and thinnest layer, only about 5 km thick under oceans and about 30 km thick under continents.

Lithosphere: Made up of the crust and a tiny bit of the upper mantle, this layer is divided into several constantly (very slowly) moving plates of solid rock that hold the continents and oceans.

Asthenosphere: The plates of the lithosphere move on this hot, malleable semiliquid zone in the upper mantle, directly underneath the lithosphere.

