# The Earth with Hidden Layers

A science story about Earth's layers




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Isla and Theo were digging in the school garden when Theo's shovel hit a small rock.

"Do you think Earth is just dirt and rocks all the way down?" he asked.

Isla looked at the ground. "Maybe. Or maybe there's something secret underneath."

Just then, Ms. Nair walked over with a smile.

"There is a lot more under your feet than dirt," she said.






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In class, Ms. Nair held up an apple.

"Imagine this apple is Earth," she said. "The skin is like Earth's crust."

"The crust is that thin?" Isla asked.

"Yes," said Ms. Nair. "The crust is the outside layer. It is where land, oceans, mountains, people, plants, and animals are."

Theo touched the apple skin. "So we live on Earth's skin?"

"In a way," Ms. Nair said.






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Then she cut the apple open.

“Under the crust is the mantle,” Ms. Nair explained.
“The mantle is very thick and made of hot rock.”

Isla’s eyes widened. “Hot rock?”

“Yes,” said Ms. Nair.
“Earth gets much hotter as you go deeper.”

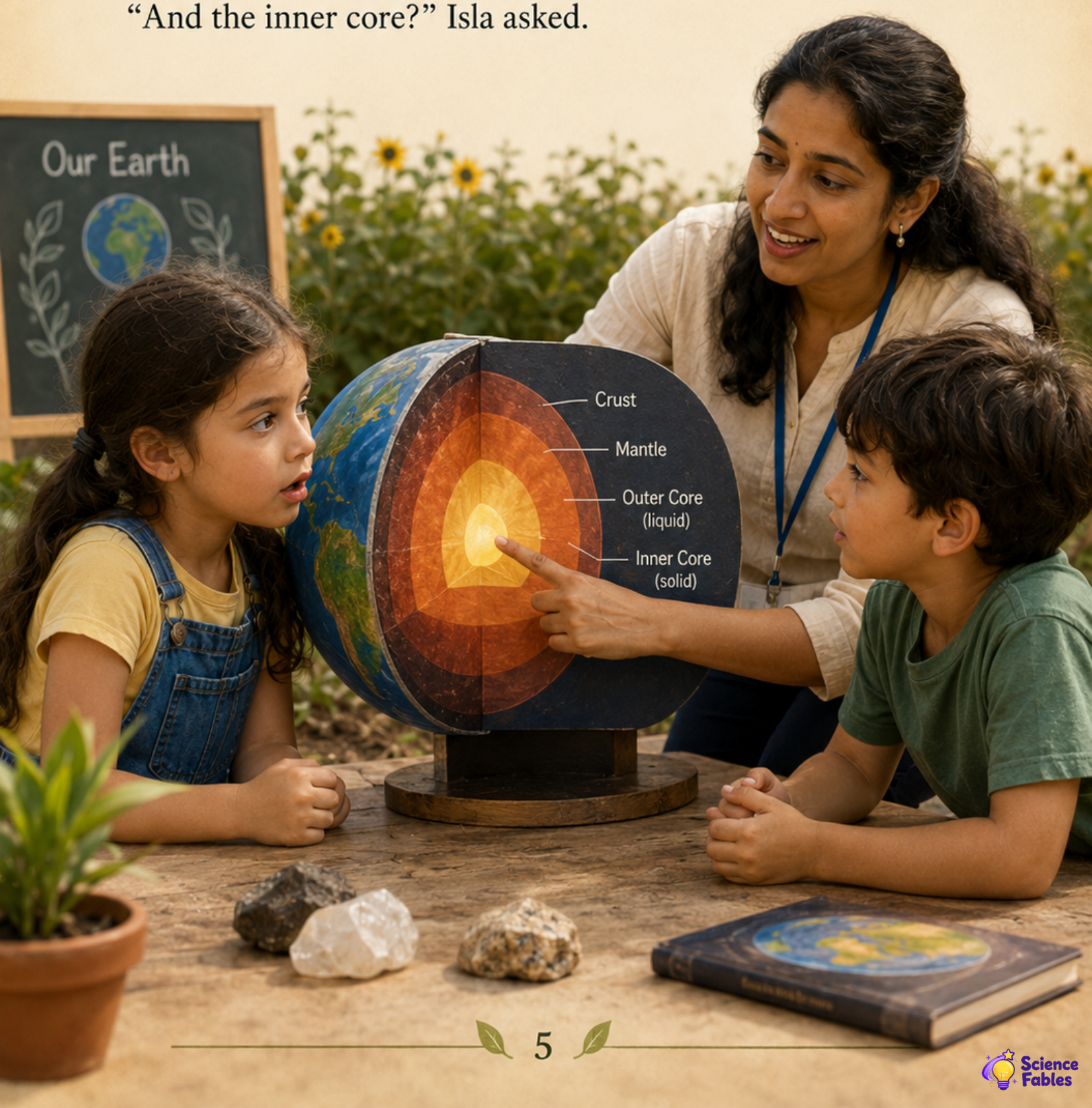


Ms. Nair pointed to the center of the apple.

"Deep inside Earth is the core," she said. "The core has two parts: the outer core and the inner core."

"The outer core is made of liquid metal," she explained. "It is so hot that the metal flows."

"And the inner core?" Isla asked.






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“The inner core is a solid ball of metal at the center of Earth,” Ms. Nair said.

Theo frowned. “If it is hotter, why is it solid?”

“The pressure at the center of Earth is so huge that the metal stays solid,” Ms. Nair explained.

“So under us there is crust, then mantle, then liquid metal, then solid metal?” Isla asked.

“Exactly,” said Ms. Nair.






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Later that day, Isla drew Earth in her notebook. She colored the crust brown and blue, the mantle orange, the outer core yellow, and the inner core bright red.

Theo grinned. “Earth is like a giant layered surprise.”




At the bottom she wrote:

“Earth may look still on the outside, but inside it has many hidden layers.”

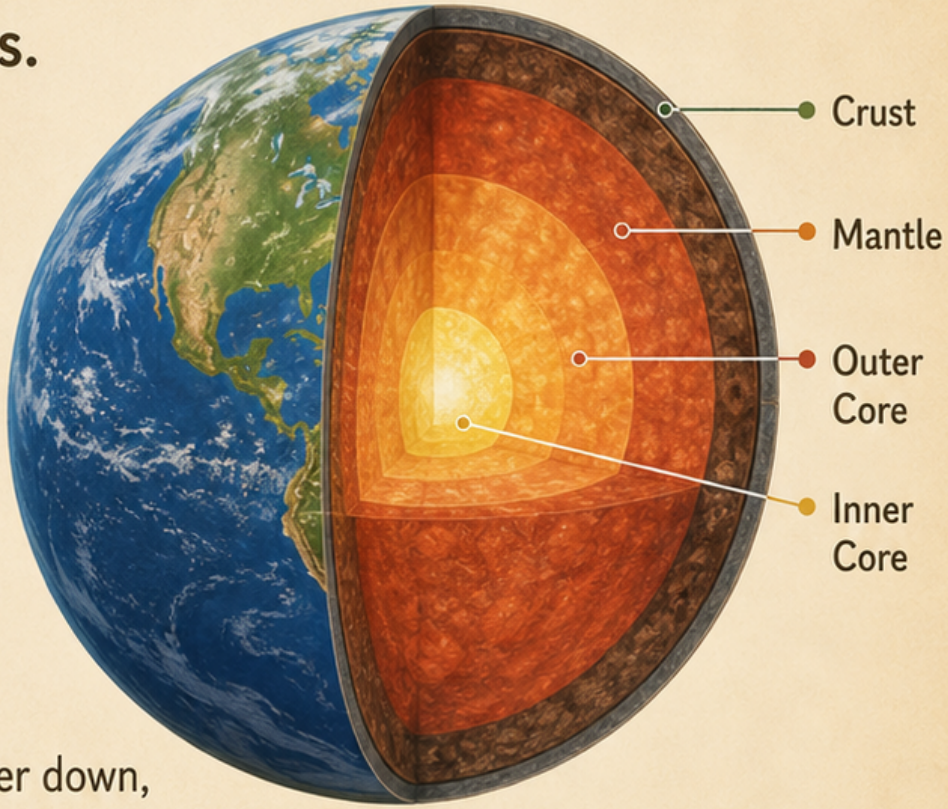


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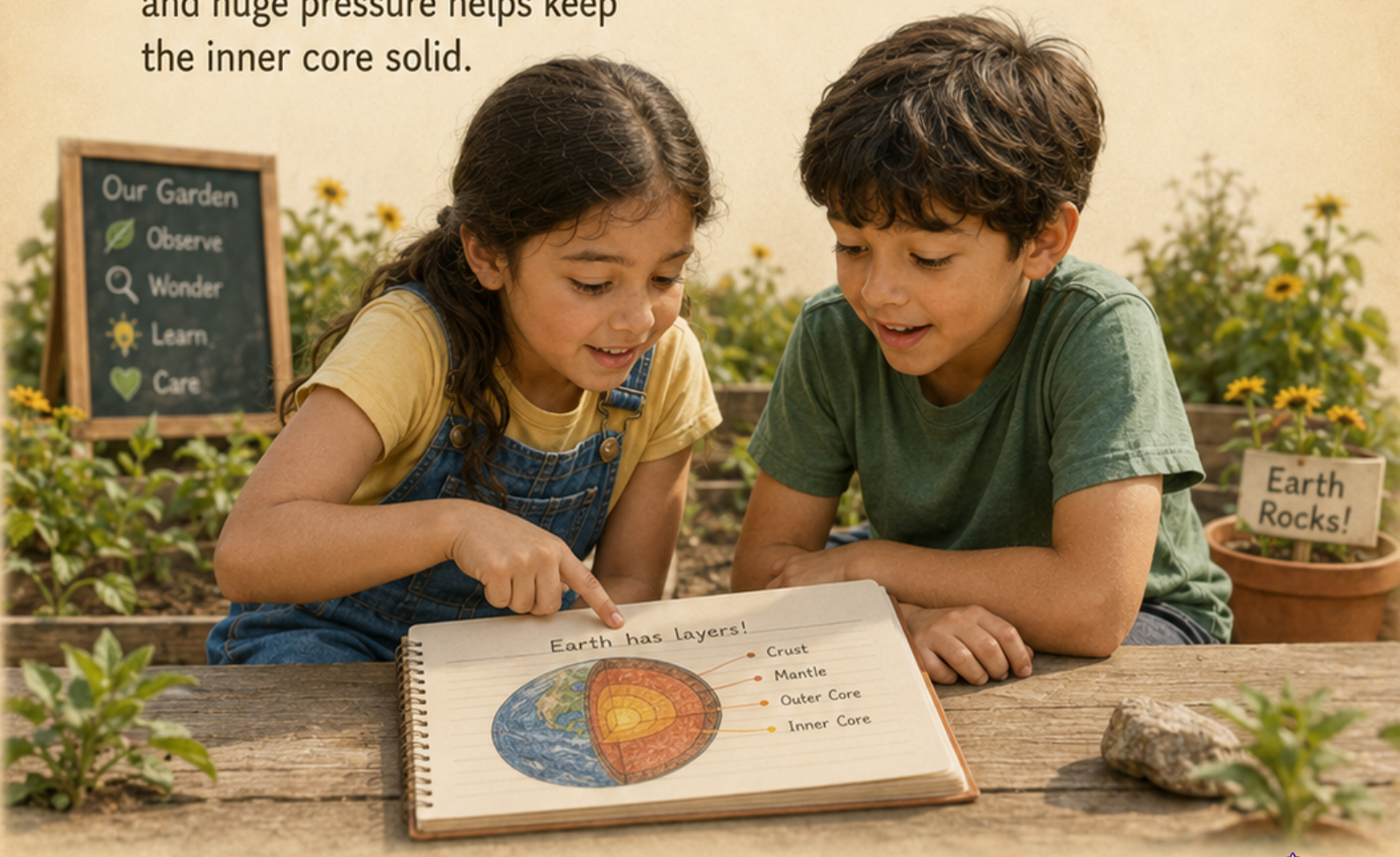
# What the Kids Learned

## Earth has layers.

- **Crust** – the thin outside layer where we live
- **Mantle** – a thick layer of hot rock
- **Outer Core** – liquid metal
- **Inner Core** – solid metal




Earth gets hotter deeper down, and huge pressure helps keep the inner core solid.






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