

Lithosphere

The outer shell of the earth consisting of the crust and the uppermost portion of the mantle

Hydrosphere

water in the earth system, gaseous, solid, and liquid

Atmosphere

The gaseous envelope of air surrounding Earth, made up of a mixture of about 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and 1 percent other gases and water vapors, one of the four spheres of the Earth system

Troposphere

The lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere characterized by decreasing temperature with altitude.

Longitude

Angular distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian.

Latitude

Angular distance in degrees north or south of the equator.

Equator

imaginary line that circles Earth halfway between the North and South Poles

Topographic Map

Map that shows the shape of the land using contour lines; a map showing an elevation field

Igneous

Rock formed by cooling and hardening of magma

Crystallization

Formation of crystals

Mineral

Naturally occurring inorganic solid with a distinct chemical composition and crystalline structure

Sedimentary

Rock formed by the compaction and cementing of layers of sediment

Fossils

Remains any other evidence of life from another geologic age preserved in rock

Strata

Layers of sedimentary rock that form matter particles settle out of a fluid and are compressed over time

Metamorphic

Rock that has undergone chemical/structural change due to the effects of heat and pressure

Earthquake

Shaking of Earth's crust caused by a release of energy

Crust

very thin outer layer of Earth above mantle, composed of a rigid layer of lighter rocks

Mantle

Thickest of Earth's layers, located between outer core and Earth's crust, composed mostly of compounds rich in iron, silicon, and magnesium

Core

The inner part of the earth

Outer Core

layer of Earth's interior located between mantle + inner core; composed of iron and nickel in a liquid shape