



Helena Haraštová  
Tomáš Tůma

My First **EXPLORING EARTH**

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**EXPLORING  
EARTH**

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Earth is enormously varied, but it isn't really stripy. We have put in stripes of different colours to show regions with different kinds of weather.

At the top you see the **Arctic**, which is freezing cold all year round. A little below it, in the **temperate** climate zone, 4 seasons alternate at regular intervals. Further southward, it is warm throughout the year. Here we find dry deserts and humid rainforests.



Why does Earth have day and night? Does the Sun get switched off in the evening and switched on again in the morning?

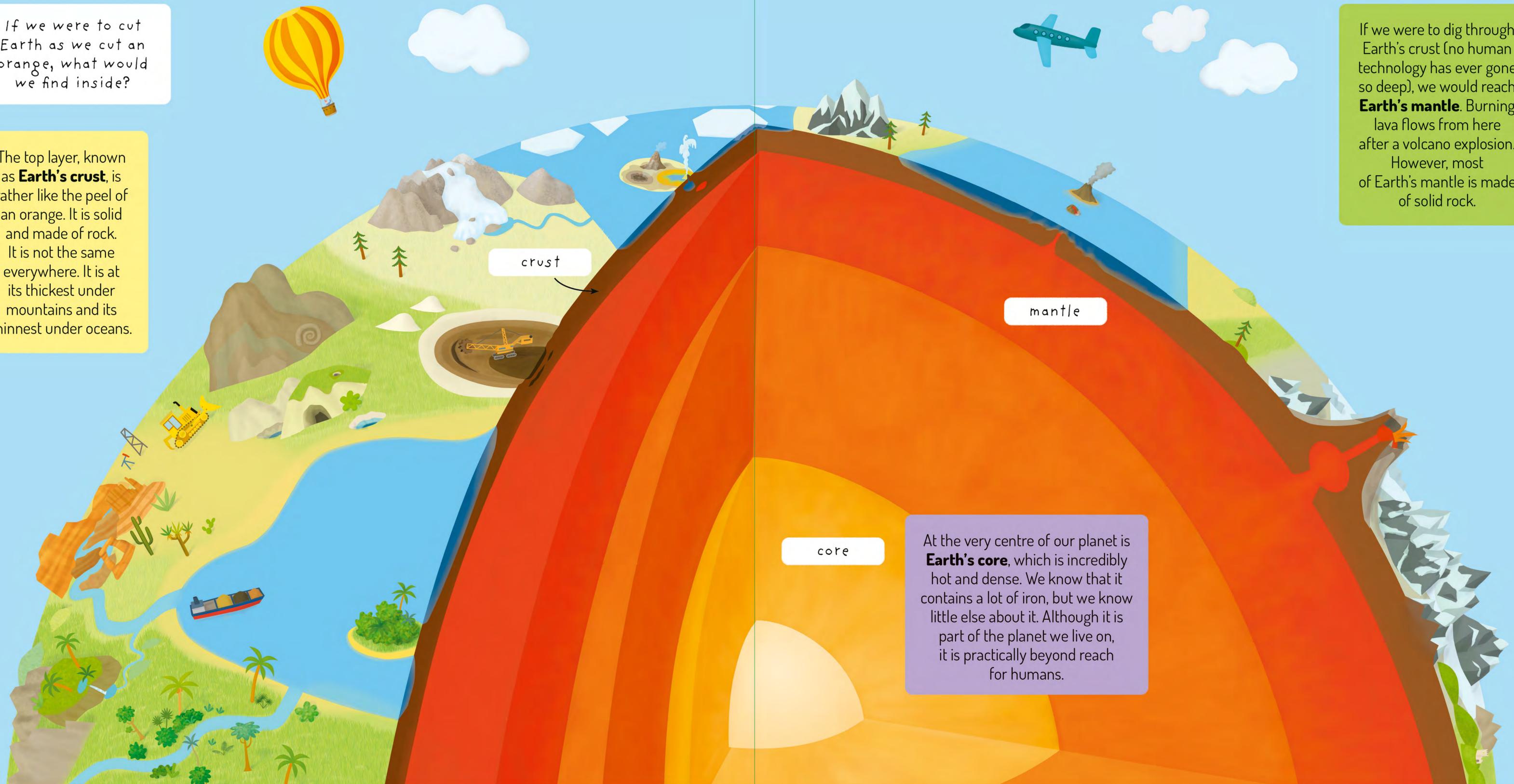
We don't feel it, but Earth is forever turning – rather like the movement of an empty eggshell on a skewer when you blow it. On the half of the planet turned towards the Sun it is day, while on the other half it is night. Day and night come at regular intervals as **Earth makes a full turn in 24 hours.**

If we were to cut Earth as we cut an orange, what would we find inside?

The top layer, known as **Earth's crust**, is rather like the peel of an orange. It is solid and made of rock. It is not the same everywhere. It is at its thickest under mountains and its thinnest under oceans.

If we were to dig through Earth's crust (no human technology has ever gone so deep), we would reach **Earth's mantle**. Burning lava flows from here after a volcano explosion. However, most of Earth's mantle is made of solid rock.

At the very centre of our planet is **Earth's core**, which is incredibly hot and dense. We know that it contains a lot of iron, but we know little else about it. Although it is part of the planet we live on, it is practically beyond reach for humans.



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# EXPLORING EARTH

What is the name of the planet we live on? The Earth, of course! But what does the Earth actually look like? And how does it thrive? Come take a look at it with us from above. While turning the pages, you will learn about oceans and continents, whether there is the same weather everywhere, in what places giraffes and polar bears live, how humans affect the Earth, and what neighbours our planet has in space. See the world as if from the window of a space shuttle!



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