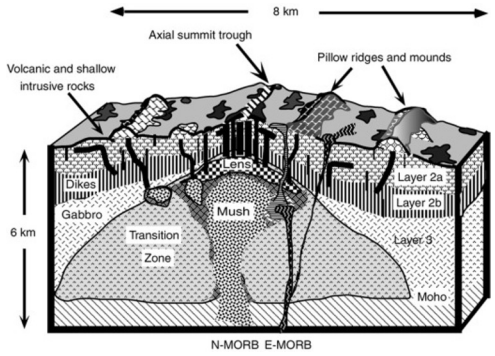
Earth's Internal Structure

Internal Layers of the Earth

Oceanic Crust (*5km Thick*)

Thinner rock layer above the magma below the ocean. The crust structure below the ocean which makes the crust thin due to the pressure of the water

The oceanic crust is theorized to contain an upper sedimentary layer, a middle basaltic volcanic layer, and a lower third layer consisting of gabbroic plutonic rocks.



The oceanic crust is hard to study due to the ocean pushing over the surface. The thin layers under the ocean are in constant change due to the lower magma layers within the earth.

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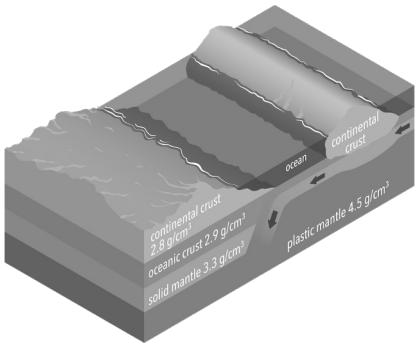
Earth's Internal Structure

Internal Layers of the Earth

Continental Crust (*30 – 50km*)

Thicker crust raising above the oceanic crust that make up the continents of the earth. Due to the accessibility of the continental crust the structure is well known.

The structure of the continental crust consists of Sial rocks, a granite rock with large amounts of aluminum and silicate



The thickness of the continental crust changes dramatically through the earth surface area. Thinner crust regions closer to sea level contain the greatest activity of the crust.

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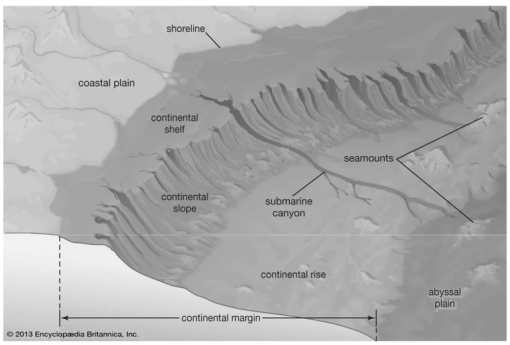
Earth's Internal Structure

Oceanic vs Continental Crust

The continental crust starts out thick near the center of the continental crust then lowers to the *continental shelf*, the place where the continental crust drops below the ocean to meet the continental crust.

The continental shelf separates the continental's **costal plane** and the oceanic's **abyssal plane**



The oceanic and continental crust boundary is an important part of the geological structure of the earth

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