**STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH**

The Earth is made up of two basic layers. One is the rocky or solid part called the **GEOSPHERE** and the other is the layer of gases that surround it called the **ATMOSPHERE**.

Scientists believe the **geosphere** is an almost perfect sphere made up of the following layers:

* Crust - This is a thin outer layer about 100 kilometres thick. The entire crust moves in sections called plates. Only a small portion of the upper part of the crust is used by man.
* Mantle - The Earth’s crust lies on a very dense solid layer called the mantle. Although the mantle consists of heated rock that seems to be solid, it behaves like a fluid in that it flows.
* Outer Core - This layer consists of a 2260km layer of very dense liquid at high temperature. The main element of the outer core is iron.
* Inner Core - This is a solid mass about 1220 kilometres thick. The main constituents of the core are thought to be iron with oxygen dissolved in it, silicon and nickel. It is kept solid by the tremendous pressure that exists at this depth.