

COULD YOU FALL THROUGH THE EARTH?

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Image from pixabay

Answer the following questions in full sentences:

1. What is this news story about?

Theoretically calculating if it would be possible for humans to go through the Earth to the other side and how long this would take.

2. What assumptions did the scientists have to make in order for you to be able to get through the Earth?

That there is a material that could be used to drill a tunnel that could withstand the temperatures and that there was no air resistance or friction from tunnel walls, which would drastically slow down the speed.

3. State and define any forces mentioned in this article.

Gravity – the force that attracts a body towards the centre of the Earth.

Air resistance – the forces that are in opposition to the motion of an object as it moves through the air.

Friction – the force caused by resistance of objects or surfaces moving over one another.



4. Explain how this article could be useful.

Although it is highly unlikely to be useful in a practical way it is useful to help Physics students thinking about the forces acting on objects and the effect that they would have on a person's motion. It is also useful to think about how gravity changes as you get closer to the centre of the Earth as well as thinking about the structure of the Earth.

5. Write down the meanings of any words **in bold** in the article.

Theoretically – existing only in theory (ideas/imagination) rather than practical

Molten – an object that is reduced to liquid form by heating (e.g. lava)

Oscillate – move back and forth or swing in a regular rhythm

Assumptions – things that are accepted as truths or certainties without proof

Quandaries – states of uncertainty over what to do in difficult situations