

Underground Explorer Script

Children close their eyes and imagine they are being lowered down through the sink-hole. Talk them through each layer in turn in the style of a tour guide.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome on board the Underground Explorer!

We start our journey today in the topsoil. If you look to your left, you will see the roots of various plants, including grasses and flowers. The roots grow here to absorb water from the topsoil.

As we descend, you will notice that the soil is becoming more sticky and lighter in colour. We are now in the subsoil, which is made up of clay and some rocks. On your right you can see the roots of an oak tree. They grow this deep so they can take up the rich nutrients found in subsoil. Keep your eyes open as we descend through the subsoil, as you may start to see some fossils as we get nearer to the bottom of this layer.

Our final destination today is the bedrock. This is a layer of very hard rock such as granite, limestone or basalt. We organise separate mining trips to investigate this layer. Please put on your protective suits as we continue our journey through the crust of the Earth and into the layers below.

We will first travel through the mantle. As you can see from the on-board thermometers, this layer is hot liquid rock, or magma. Please do not touch this as it will cause serious burns.

Below us now you will be able to see the outer core. Please be prepared for some bumps as we travel through the outer core - it's not all liquid and does contain some rocky lumps which may hit our vehicle.

Our final destination today will be the inner core - a large, hot ball of iron and nickel which melts in the outer core to form magma.

Thank you for travelling with the Underground Explorer today. We will shortly be returning to the surface. Please leave your heat protective suits in the vehicle and do not exit until we have reached the crust.