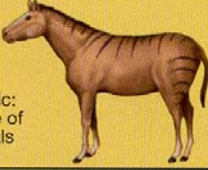




The Geologic Time Scale						
Eon	Era	Period**	Epoch	Approximate Ages (In millions of years)		
Phanerozoic: The Eon of Visible Life	 Cenozoic: The Age of Mammals	Quaternary (Q)	Recent Pleistocene	Neogene*	1.6	
		Tertiary (T)	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene		Paleogene*	24
	 Mesozoic: The Age of Reptiles	Cretaceous (K)	Late Early		65	
		Jurassic (J)	Late Middle Early		144	
		Triassic (R)	Late Middle Early		213	
	 Paleozoic: The Age of Trilobites	Permian (P)	Late Early		248	
		Carboniferous (C)*	Pennsylvanian (Pp)	Late Middle Early		286
			Mississippian (M)	Late Early		320
		Devonian (D)	Late Middle Early		360	
		Silurian (S)	Late Middle Early		417	
		Ordovician (O)	Late Middle Early		445	
		Cambrian (€)	Late Middle Early		495	
	Precambrian (PC)	Locally divided into Early, Middle, and Late			545	
					4500+	

*European names

**Symbols in parentheses are abbreviations commonly used to designate the age of rock units on geologic maps.

Figure 1. Relative geologic time scale (after Anders et al., 1997.)

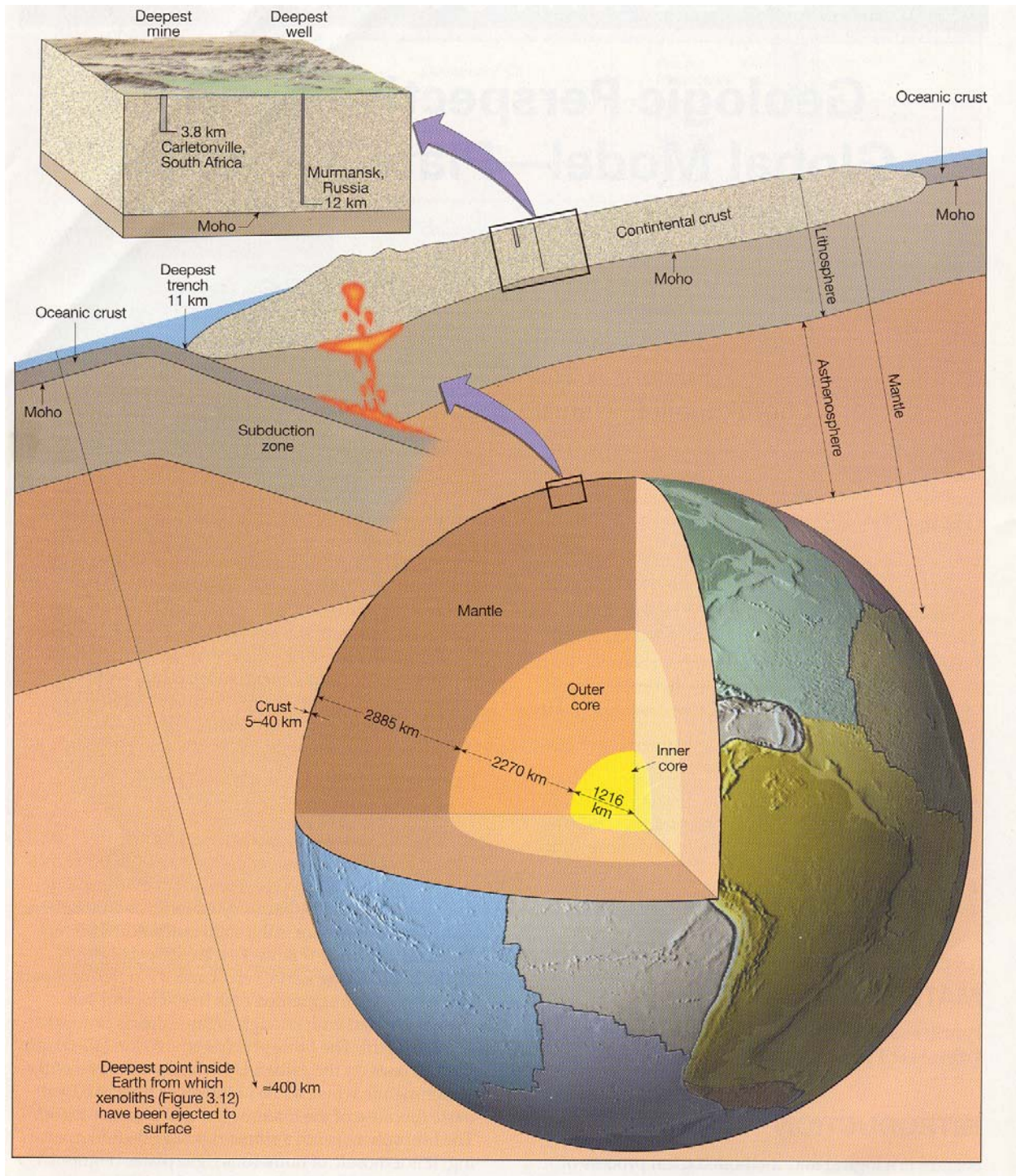


Figure 2. Structure of the Earth (after Anders et al., 1997.)

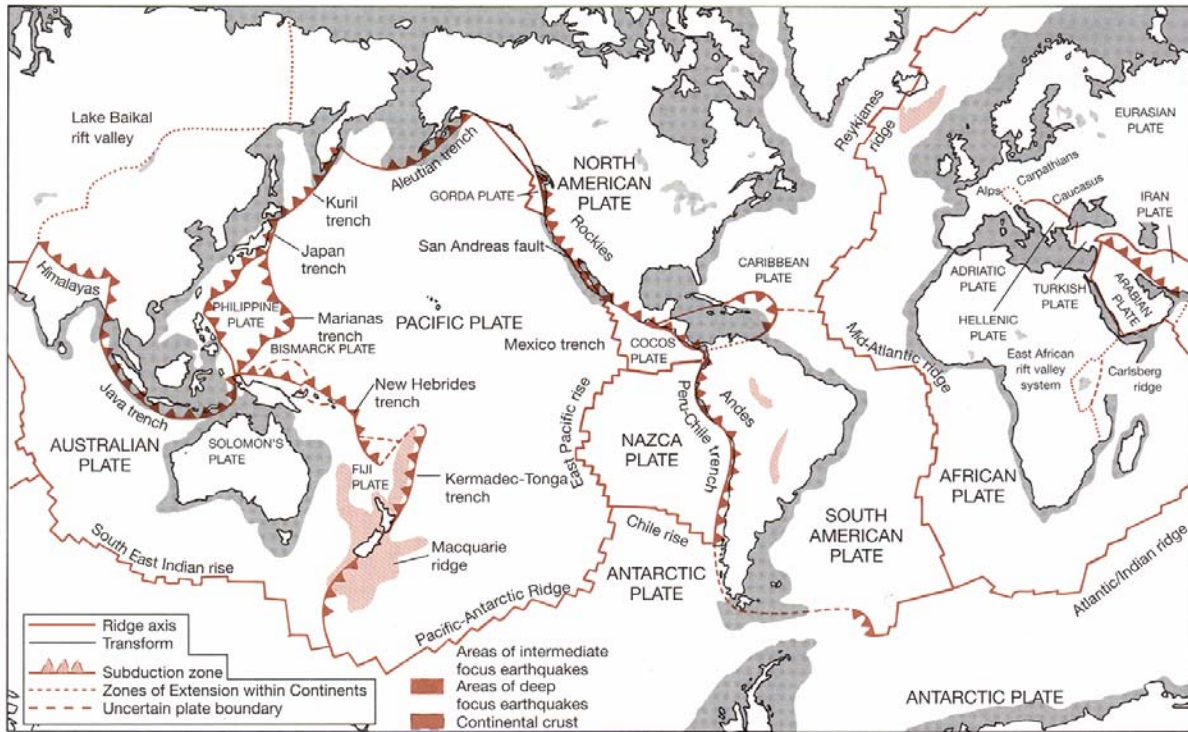


Figure 3. Plates and plate boundaries of the Earth (after West, 1995.)

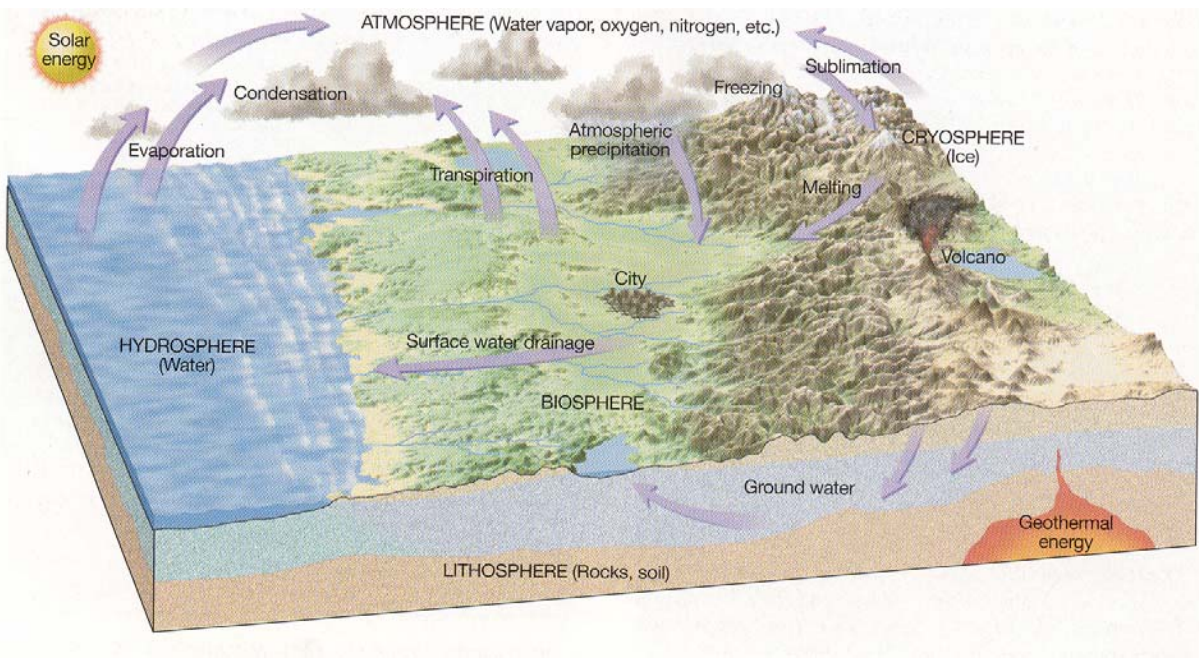


Figure 4. The hydrologic cycle (after Anders et al., 1997.)