

1. Our planet consists of a solid core surrounded by several layers. The relatively  
2. thin outermost layer, called the crust, is composed of different types of rock  
3. with varying compositions. The layer beneath the crust—nearly 3,000  
4. kilometers thick—is called the mantle. Geoscientists ( 29 ) to obtain  
5. directly from this layer. The rock in Earth's crust originate in the mantle, so  
6. learning more about the mantle would help them understand how the planet's  
7. surface formed. It would also increase understanding of plate tectonics—the  
8. way pieces of the crust move. In the past, isolated chunks of the mantle have  
9. surfaced through volcanic eruptions, and small parts of the mantle have been  
10. found on the ocean floor. However, these provide little more than vague hints  
11. about the actual mantle because their chemical and physical structure is  
12. substantially altered as they make their way to the surface.

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24. of the Earth's crust located beneath the oceans—is thinner than the crust  
25. beneath land masses, and scientists have managed to pierce about a third of  
26. the way through it. In light of recent technological improvements, drilling  
27. beyond the crust now seems feasible. Researchers led by U.K. geologist Damon  
28. Teagle have announced plans to drill of the coast of Costa Rica to finally reach  
29. the underlying mantle.  
30. (30) 1 will not work in practice 2 carries a number of risks  
3 has damaged the mantle 4 is the way to achieve success

### Further Questions

31. 4) Why is drilling into the seabed the best way to reach the mantle?  
32. *The oceanic crust is thinner than the crust beneath land masses.*  
33. 5) Where does Damon Teagle plan to drill?  
34. *He plans to drill off the coast of Costa Rica.*

