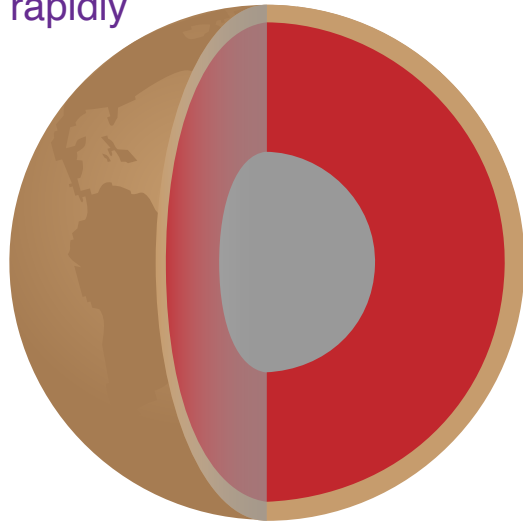


Small Terrestrial Planets

interior cools rapidly

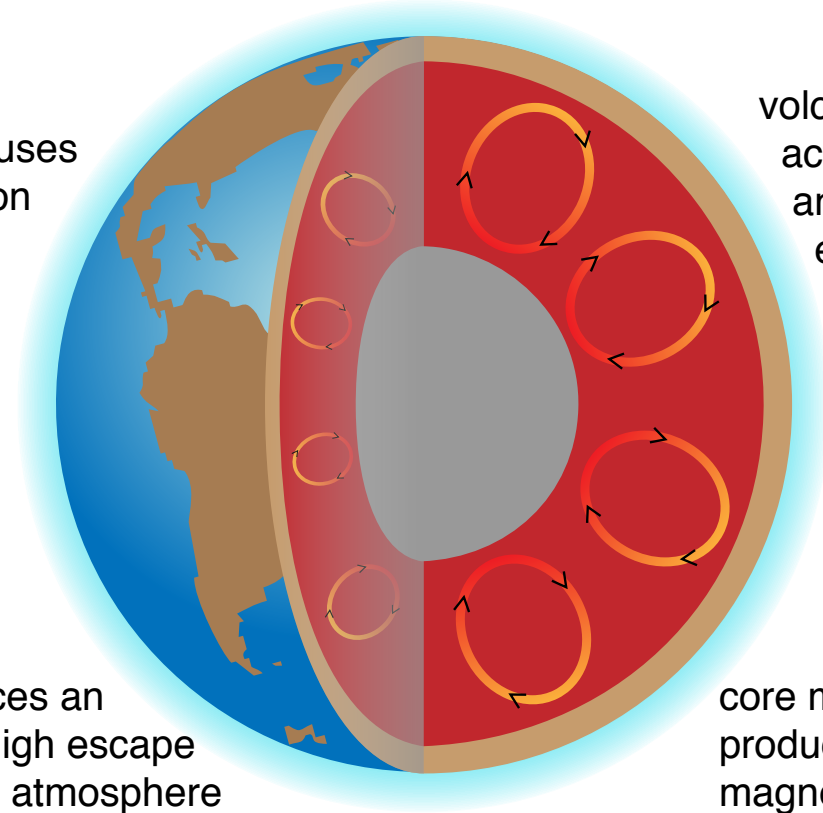


volcanic and tectonic activity ends after about a billion years. many ancient craters thus remain.

low volcanism gives little outgassing and low escape velocity means little atmosphere and little erosion

Large Terrestrial Planets

warm interior causes mantle convection



volcanic and tectonic activity ongoing. most ancient craters are erased.

outgassing produces an atmosphere and high escape velocity means the atmosphere is retained and erosion is possible.

core may be molten, producing a protective magnetic field if rotation is fast enough.