

Mars for Earthlings

LESSON 2: Birth of Planets

In-Class Activity 1

Differentiation and JELL-O 1-2-3

Purpose: Observe and understand the reasons for internal planetary differentiation.

JELL-O 1-2-3

Observe the JELL-O provided by your instructor and answer the following:

1. What has happened to the JELL-O?
2. Explain why the layers formed.
3. What is the difference between the layers?

The Earth's Interior

1. Describe the Earth's interior. What are the different layers?
2. How does the composition of the Earth change between the layers?

Planets and JELL-O

1. How similar/dissimilar is the internal differentiation of the planets from JELL-O 1-2-3 differentiation?



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Changing Conditions

What physical and/or chemical conditions might change the behavior of the JELL-O and the differentiation of a planet?

Mar's Interior

1. Explore the information page on the future InSight mission (<http://insight.jpl.nasa.gov/home.cfm>). What is the primary goal of the mission? Why can understanding the planet's interior tell us about the history of Mars?

