Vocab Book

The Core	**The core is the very hot, very dense centre of our planet. This is made up of the inner core (very hot and dense) and the outer core (very hot flowing liquid)**
Viscosity	**The property of a liquid that describes how fast or slowly it will flow.**
Low Viscosity	**The liquid will flow quickly.**
High Viscosity	**The liquid will flow slowly.**
Mesosphere	**Also known as the Stiffer Mantle, this is the thickest part of the earth and lies above the core.**
Asthenosphere	**This is the highly viscous region of the upper mantle. Closer to the surface of the mantle is rigid, while deeper below the surface the mantle has some movement.**
Lithosphere	**This is the hard and rigid layer, made up of the rigid mantle and the crust.**
Oceanic Crust	**This is the thinner of the two crusts, varying between 50-140km thickness.**
Continental Crust	**The thickness of this crust varies between 40-280km.**
Plate Tectonics	**Plate tectonics is the theory of how the earths crust moves, and what results from this movement.**
Pangea	**Pangea was the supercontinent formed approx. 299 million years ago and incorporated almost all of the landmasses on Earth**
Tectonic Plates	**A massive, irregularly shaped slabs of rock in which the earths crust sits on.**
Mantle Convection	**The very slow creeping motion of the earth's solid mantle caused by convection currents carrying heat from the interior to the planet's surface.**

Divergent Plate Boundary	**This is a tectonic plate boundary where two plates are moving away from each other.**
Convergent Plate Boundary	**This is a tectonic plate boundary where two plates are moving towards each other.**
Transform Plate Boundary	**These boundaries occur when two plates slide past one another**
Volcano	**A rupture in the crust of the earth that allows hot lava, volcanic ash and gases to escape from a magma chamber below the surface.**
Volcanic Hot Spot	**A hot spot develops above mantle plumes (areas of hot, upwelling mantle) and produces active volcanos at the Earth's surface.**
Stratovolcano/ Composite volcano	**A tall volcano built up of alternate layers of lava and ash.**
Shield Volcano	**A broad domed volcano with gentle sloping sides.**
Caldera	**A large volcanic crater, especially ones formed by a major eruption, leading to the collapse of the mouth of the volcano.**
Earthquake	**A sudden violent shaking of the earth, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.**
Focus/ Hypocentre	**The point within the earth where an earthquake rupture starts**
Epicentre	**The point on the earth's surface vertically above the focus of an earthquake.**
Seismic Wave	**The waves of energy that travel through the earth's layers as a result of an earthquake**
P wave	**The primary wave of energy that is released from the focus. This wave travels in a straight line.**
S wave	**The secondary wave travels at a slower speed to the p wave. This wave can be felt on the earth's surface due to the movement it causes as it travels through the earth's layers.**

Seismograph	**An instrument that measures and records details of earthquakes, such as force and duration.**
Aftershock	**This is a smaller earthquake following the main shock of a large earthquake.**
Tsunami	**A series of ocean waves that send surges of water, sometimes reaching heights of over 100ft. onto land**
Natural Disaster	**A natural event such as a flood, earthquakes, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life**
Geological Natural Disasters	**A natural disaster caused by natural geographical processes such as plate tectonics**
Meteorological Natural Disasters	**A natural disaster caused by extreme weather**
Sink Hole	**A sinkhole is a hole or depression in the ground caused by some form of collapse of the surface layer.**
Sedimentary Rocks	**A rock that has formed through the deposition and solidification of sediment. They are often deposited in layers and frequently contain fossils.**
Carbonate Rocks	**A class of sedimentary rocks composed primarily of carbonate minerals. (calcium)**
Storm	**A violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and usually rain, thunder lightening or snow**
Hurricane	**A large rotating storm with high wind speeds that forms over warm waters in tropical areas.**
Tornado	**Also known as a twister or a whirlwind and is a violent rotating column of air that is in contact with the Earth's surface as well as a thunderstorm cloud**
Wildfire	**An uncontrollable fire in combustible vegetation that occurs in a woodland or the countryside**