

EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD

Here are portrayed two views of our planet's geomagnetic field. *On the left* is the earth split open, with the north pole at the top and the south pole at the bottom. The magnetic core is shown darker in the center, with the lighter-colored mantle around it.

On the right is a typical coil of wire with electricity running through it, producing a small magnetic field.

The intensity of earth's magnetic field is strongest at the poles and weakest at the equator. The location of the magnetic poles change gradually over a period of time. At the present time, the field is inclined about 11° to the spin axis of the planet. Earth's magnetic field comprises about 90 percent of the magnetic field observed at ground level; the remainder is charged particles from the sun.

