

by jok church



Dear Beakman,  
 If we slid down a  
 hole drilled through  
 Earth to China,  
 would we come out  
 the other end  
 upside-down??  
 Henry Brian  
 Beamsville, Ontario

Beakman or Jax  
 1130 Walnut Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64106  
 Questions, name & address

One of the deepest holes drilled into Earth is in Russia's Kola Peninsula up near Finland. It's about 40,000 feet (12,192 meters) deep, or about 7.57 miles deep.

The first problem with your hole is its length. A hole all the way through Earth would need to be about 7,925 miles long. That means we have to be able to drill a hole more than 1,000 times as deep as the Kola Superdeep hole.

Another problem with sliding down that pretend hole through the Earth is heat.

The temperature in the Kola hole was about 350°F, and the heat broke the drill's digging teeth.

Most scientific guesses at the temperature of the center of Earth are more than 12,500°F.

Dear Henry,  
 The other side of Earth from Beamsville, Ontario, is not China. It's in the Indian Ocean, southwest of Australia. Look at the white bar on our globe. But there's lots of tough stuff with any hole-through-the-Earth thing.

Jumping down would only get you to the center of the Earth, because that's where down ends and up begins.

*Beakman*  
 Beakman Place



# STUFF TO DO:

The next time you have grapefruit at breakfast, think of it as a flat-drawing of the ball-shaped planet Earth. And if you have tacks, stick them into its skin. Both pins are pointing down, but the direction down depends on where you are on the globe, the huge ball that Earth is. Gravity pulls stuff on Earth together. And the center of the Earth is as far down as down can be. And, you cannot fall up.

There is also the problem of the center of the Earth being molten iron – hugely hot – too hot to travel to, or through.

Beakman's World on  
**NETFLIX**

P.S. from Jax: If you haven't done it already, there might be a time when you work to dig that hole through planet Earth. It's called "a rite of passage."