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Historical Geology (Evolution Of Earth And Life Through Time)



Synopsis

HISTORICAL GEOLOGY, Sixth Edition, presents a balanced overview of the geological and biological history of Earth as a continuum of interrelated events that reflect the underlying principles and processes that have shaped our planet. Students are taught the basic geologic principles as well as how scientists apply these principles to unravel Earth's history. Three major themes - time, evolutionary theory, and plate tectonics - are woven together throughout the book to help students link essential material and enhance their understanding of historical geology. The sixth edition has been thoroughly updated to include the formation of the Earth-Moon system, information about the evolution of populations as a whole, and coverage of climate change throughout the text, placing an emphasis on what we don't know within the historical geology field as compared to what we do know.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was designed to provide materials for a one semester course in historical geology for both majors and non-majors. Its nineteen chapters focus on three themes: Plate Tectonics, Physical and Biological History (the history of Earth's physical features, systems, and the life forms that have inhabited it), and Evolution. The authors have done a very good job in making the text readable and I believe it can be read enjoyably and to great benefit by an interested general reader outside of class. At least I found it fascinating and informative. The text uses photos, diagrams, charts, and all kinds of illustrations to enhance the reader's understanding of what is being said. There is also a useful CD to supplement the text. And Thomson has provided a website with even more things to read and do. Each chapter provides an outline of what is going to be discussed, a bulleted set of chapter objectives, an introduction, and the chapter materials. The intra-chapter material is presented to questions asked in the headings of each section. The chapters also have little boxes

entitled "What Would You Do?" that try to ask practical questions about real life issues that are related to the material being discussed. Each chapter ends with a bulleted Summary section, a list of important terms (that usefully has the page number where that term was used) and review questions that are multiple choice and short essay types. There is also an Apply Your Knowledge section with a few problems for the student (reader) to think about and practically apply what has been learned in that chapter. Some also have Field Questions that ask questions about a photograph, figure or table provided or referred to in the text.

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