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This Dynamic Earth: The Story Of Plate Tectonics



Synopsis

Plate tectonics is a relatively new scientific concept, introduced some 30 years ago, but it has revolutionized our understanding of the dynamic planet upon which we live. The theory has unified the study of the Earth by drawing together many branches of the earth sciences, from paleontology (the study of fossils) to seismology (the study of earthquakes). It has provided explanations to questions that scientists had speculated upon for centuries -- such as why earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in very specific areas around the world, and how and why great mountain ranges like the Alps and Himalayas formed. Cover: View of the planet Earth from the Apollo spacecraft. The Red Sea, which separates Saudi Arabia from the continent of Africa, is clearly visible at the top. (Photograph courtesy of NASA.)

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Plate tectonics is a relatively new scientific concept, introduced some 30 years ago, but it has revolutionized our understanding of the dynamic planet upon which we live. The theory has unified the study of the Earth by drawing together many branches of the earth sciences, from paleontology (the study of fossils) to seismology (the study of earthquakes). It has provided explanations to questions that scientists had speculated upon for centuries -- such as why earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in very specific areas around the world, and how and why great mountain ranges like the Alps and Himalayas formed. Cover: View of the planet Earth from the Apollo spacecraft. The Red Sea, which separates Saudi Arabia from the continent of Africa, is clearly visible at the top. (Photograph courtesy of NASA.)

When the Calbuco volcano started erupting in Chile, it sparked an interest I have in plate tectonics. So I looked for a book to scratch that itch. This looked like a good candidate. It's okay; but a little too simplistic. However, one of the books listed in the bibliography is W.G.Ernst, The Dynamic Planet I got the Ernst book and am very happy with it. Ernst goes into the level of detail I like, and he's a fine writer, explains the concepts very well, and provides good photos, graphs and drawings to get the ideas across. Five stars for Ernst, but Kious and Tilling are too simple and only gets the third star because of the bibliography. This book, Dynamic Earth, is less taxing than, for example, the various books in the Roadside Geology of . . . series. It does not have an index, and doesn't discuss Yellowstone or the Long Valley Caldera in California. Ernst doesn't either, but does go into detail using Mount St. Helens to discuss ongoing vulcanism.

This book by W. Jacquelyne Kious is valuable for its organization, its presentation of facts, its photos and diagrams, and its usefulness as a reference. It is written in a lively and enthusiastic manner that makes the reader want to know more. It also develops in the reader an absolute awe of our planet and its geology. I loved it. Geraldine Mott

a primary on plate tectonics for those of us who did not take geology in college.

Written in understanding terms and language, good overview of Tectonics. Nice illustrations and should leave the reader with a good working knowledge of the subject.

This is a great text for those just being introduced to the concept of Plate Tectonics and those who already have an interest in the subject. Great photos and graphics match a well organized and written text. Great source of info for the science teacher at either the middle school or high school level.

arrived on time, nice package, really like the product very sharp well balanced, good heft enjoyed using it very much it is recommend. my brother like it , have a good experience. great,

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