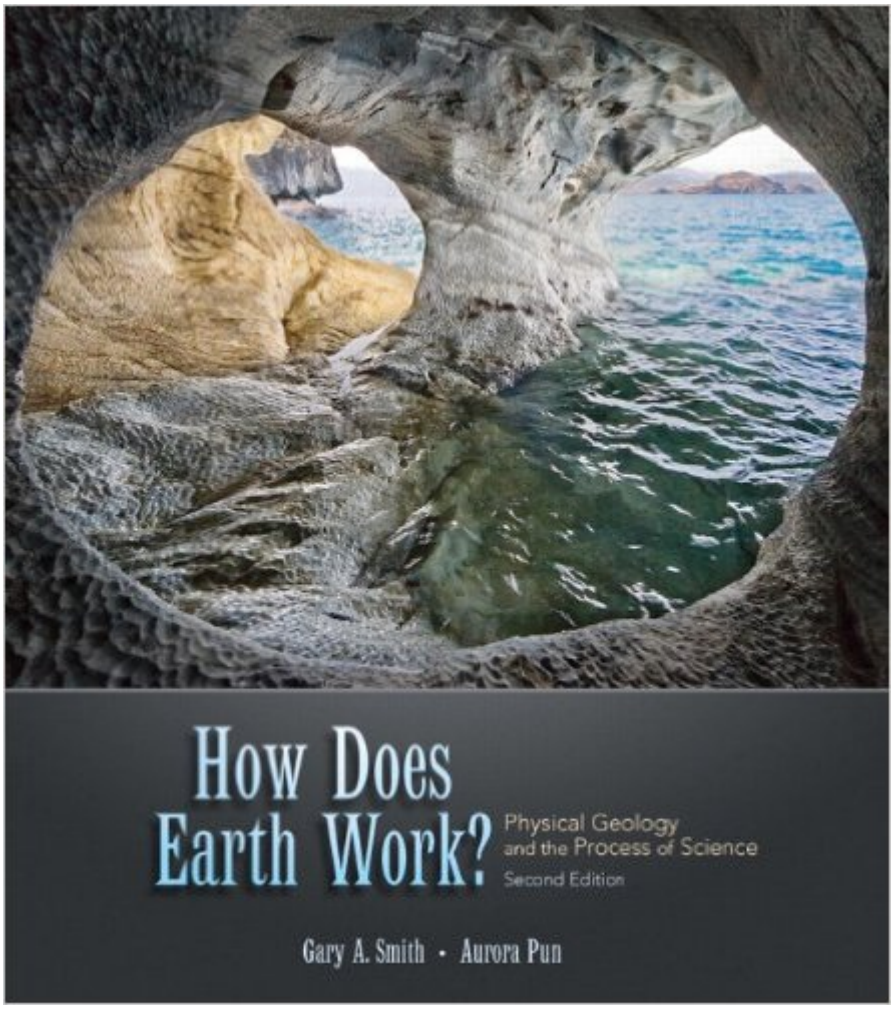
How Does Earth Work? Physical Geology And The Process Of Science (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

With its unconventional yet highly effective approach, How Does Earth Work? demonstrates the process of science as a vehicle for investigating physical geology. Smith and Pun connect readers to the evidence behind the facts, instead of reproducing known factsâ ”sparking interest in how science is practiced and how we know what we know. Like geology detectives, readers learn to think through the scientific process and uncover evidence that explains Earthâ ™s mysteries. Chapters open with an essay that places a curious investigator in a realistic field or lab setting to observe and ask questions about geological phenomena. Integrated real-world connections link topics to issues of societal concern or relevant experience to increase appreciation of the value of discovering science; and annotated illustrations with thoughtful descriptions help readers observe the hypotheses presented. Why Study Earth? Minerals: Building Blocks of the Planet; Rocks and Rock-Forming Processes; Formation of Magma and Igneous Rocks; Formation of Sediment and Sedimentary Rocks; Formation of Metamorphic Rocks; Earth Materials as Time Keepers; Journey to the Center of Earth; Making Earth; Motion Inside Earth; Deformation of Rocks; Global Tectonics:Â Plates and Plumes; Tectonics and Surface Relief; Soil Formation and Landscape Stability; Mass Movements: Landscapes in Motion; Streams:Â Flowing Water Shapes the Landscape; Water Flowing Underground; Glaciers: Cold-Climate Sculptors of Continents; Shorelines: Changing Landscapes Where Land Meets Sea; Wind: A Global Geologic Process; Global Warming: Real-time Change in the Earth System. MARKET: An interesting reference for anyone interested in learning more about Earthâ ™s processes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Okay, let me get a few things out of the way up front. First off, I generally hate textbooks. I've been in college 6 years and counting, and it's fair to say that most textbooks (regardless of subject) are written and edited in a very clueless fashion. Second, though I have many personal interests in the realm of science (quantum mechanics, string theory, and so on), it's often a major chore to study 100-level science at a university. Doubly so if it's a scientific subject you have no interest in - which in my case would be geology.Back to the topic at hand, this book counters all of what I just said. This is an outstanding textbook by any standard. I'd even recommend it for non-students who have an interest in geology and earth science. Combined with a good instructor, this book makes an excellent resource and a surprisingly enjoyable read. I had virtually no personal interest in geology going into the class, but this book communicates a good deal of practical knowledge as well as just plain interesting trivia.I do have some issues with the book in a physical sense. Content-wise, /How Does Earth Work/ is fantastic. But the design of the book is troublesome. It's large, unwieldy, and the cover is very flimsy. A book this size should really be hardcover, because the glossy pages are just too vulnerable to folds and tears even with careful use. I take good care of my books, and don't just randomly slop them into my backpack. Even with all my efforts to keep the book in tact, it already has minor creases in the cover, bent corners on pages, and other slight damage. This is after just two weeks of class, folks.The book looks great, with all the color photos and such... But the physical design of it is not at all realistic for college use.

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