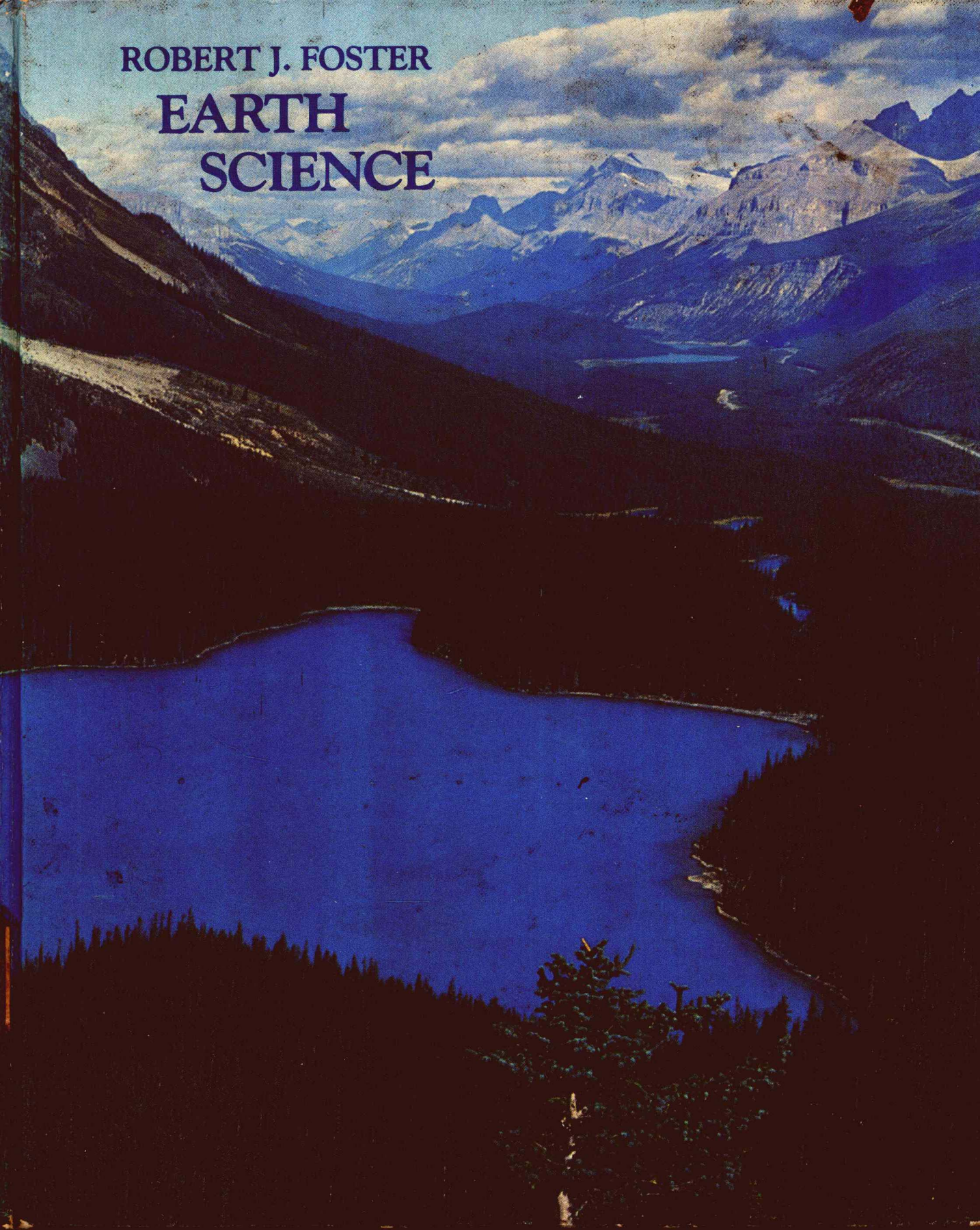


ROBERT J. FOSTER
**EARTH
SCIENCE**



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EARTH SCIENCE



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PREFACE

Purpose and Focus

It's the only earth we have, so we had better learn to take care of it. This sentence sums up the urgency for an earth science course. It is the reason more and more students are taking earth science courses to fulfill their science requirement. To understand the earth completely, we study its internal makeup and its surface features, its oceans and its atmosphere, its planetary system and its place in the universe. These aspects of the earth are interconnected, so to learn how the earth works, we focus on broader issues than do separate courses in geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy.

Earth Science is classical in coverage but modern in content. It comprehensively presents the essential facts and details upon which a sound and accurate earth science is based. Although chapters and parts are independent of each other, plate tectonics is an important theme throughout the chapters on geology and oceanography and much of the astronomy (see Plate 6 in Chapter 1). This theme allows a degree of unity among the earth sciences that was not possible until recently. The enormity of time in geology and astronomy provides another degree of continuity. These and several other major ideas are displayed in the extraordinary color plates in Chapter 1, which introduce the student to the relationships among the earth sciences.

Audience

Earth Science was written for liberal arts nonscience students and assumes no science background or mathematical abilities. Simple algebra is used in a few places to clarify rather than obscure relationships. Every effort has been made to make this book appealing and useful to the students.

Organization—Flexible Usage

The overriding concept in the organization of the book has been to make it flexible so that it will meet the needs of students and instructors in a wide variety of courses. The book is divided into four

parts—geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Each of these parts can stand alone, so they can be used in any sequence. The chapters within each part can also stand alone and be used in other sequences. Thus, this book is adaptable to earth science courses with a wide variety in content and length.

Chapter 1 outlines the scope of the book through a graphic presentation. The chapter focuses on the chief concepts of the earth sciences and presents them to the student in sixteen easy-to-understand color plates. These illustrations paint a broad picture of large-scale processes, which are detailed later in the text. The plates can be especially valuable if chapters are omitted in some course outlines.

Learning Aids

Earth Science offers many useful learning and study aids. By employing these aids you will use the book to its best advantage. The following features are available:

1. *Chapter outlines* to preview the key contents of each chapter.
2. *Bold-faced terms* to highlight all important definitions and concepts within the text.
3. *Graphics* to illustrate the text material (over 500 photos, block diagrams, and line drawings, including 16 color plates and 8 pages of color photographs).
4. *Metric (English) units* used throughout.
5. *Chapter end materials* to review chapter content:
 - Summary of chapters
 - Key terms (listed in the same sequence as they were introduced)
 - Review questions
 - Suggested readings (featuring recent short articles in popular magazines)
6. *Glossary* for reference to all terms and definitions.
7. *Appendixes* for reference to pertinent background material:
 - Unit systems
 - Mineral identification
 - Topographic maps
 - Relative humidity and dew point tables
 - Star maps

Acknowledgments

Many individuals have reviewed, commented on, and participated in the development of this book. Each part was critiqued by experts in that field, and, while not all criticisms were taken, the reviewing process was indispensable to accuracy, coverage, and consistency. I am

grateful to these colleagues, who indeed care about the quality of contemporary earth science teaching: Lindgren Lin Chyi, The University of Akron; Kenith Exum, Pensacola Junior College, Florida; Marvin L. Ivey, St. Petersburg Junior College, Florida; Eugene Jaworski, Eastern Michigan University; Paul Kirst, Miami Dade Community College, South Campus; David Marczy, Southern Connecticut State University; Charles Stuart, University of Texas, El Paso; Lynn Thompson, Ricks College, Idaho; Tonie A. Toney, Miami Dade Community College, South Campus; Louis Unfer, Southeast Missouri State University; and Ivan Watkins, St. Cloud State University, Minnesota.

The production of a text is complex and involves many creative talents. Julie Kranhold coordinated the production team and organized and directed the design, editing, art, and scheduling. William Waller edited the manuscript. Dennis Tasa illustrated the three-dimensional graphics and created the special color plates in Chapter 1. Ayxa Art developed the two-dimensional line art. Joan Foster created the photo program for the book, including the dramatic chapter openers, and administered the myriad of details of photo collection. She also developed Chapter 1 and most of the art program. Dare Porter designed the book with an open and inviting format. As with most complex endeavors, the production of this book encountered numerous obstacles. I am grateful to this team who not only faced these obstacles, but often provided solutions that were original and creative and always in the spirit of achieving the highest quality.

Larry Wilson was a source of advice, help, and encouragement from the very beginning of this project. The organization and many of the features of this book were developed in discussions with him. Chapter 1 owes much to his vision and encouragement.

Besides her enormous work on the illustrations, Joan Foster supported and influenced the writing of this book in ways that can never be enumerated fully, including typing, editing, proofing, and indexing. She was a critic and companion from its inception to its publication, and this book would not have been completed without her dedication to it.

Robert J. Foster

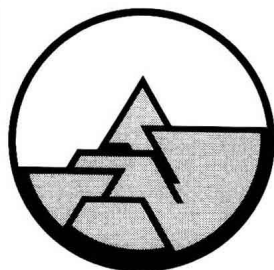
BRIEF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	EARTH SCIENCES: AN ILLUSTRATED OVERVIEW	1
PART I	GEOLOGY	36
CHAPTER 2	GEOLOGY AND MINERALS	39
CHAPTER 3	ROCKS, WEATHERING, AND MINERAL RESOURCES	59
CHAPTER 4	PLATE TECTONICS AND THE EARTH'S SURFACE STRUCTURE	95
CHAPTER 5	EARTHQUAKES AND THE EARTH'S INTERIOR	125
CHAPTER 6	EROSION SCULPTURES THE SURFACE	145
CHAPTER 7	EARTH HISTORY: FOSSILS, TIME, AND PLATE TECTONICS	177
PART II	OCEANOGRAPHY	200
CHAPTER 8	THE OCEAN FLOORS AND THEIR SEDIMENTS	203
CHAPTER 9	OCEAN WATER AND ITS CIRCULATION	225
CHAPTER 10	THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT	243
PART III	METEOROLOGY	266
CHAPTER 11	THE ATMOSPHERE AND ITS ENERGY	269
CHAPTER 12	MOISTURE IN THE ATMOSPHERE	293
CHAPTER 13	AIR IN MOTION: PRESSURE AND WIND	313
CHAPTER 14	STORMS	337
CHAPTER 15	CLIMATES AND CHANGING CLIMATES	365
PART IV	ASTRONOMY	382
CHAPTER 16	THE EARTH AS A PLANET	385
CHAPTER 17	THE SOLAR SYSTEM	421
CHAPTER 18	SUN, STARS, AND UNIVERSE	469

DETAILED CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	
EARTH SCIENCES: AN ILLUSTRATED OVERVIEW	1
Our Place in the Universe	
PLATE 1: THE EARTH'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE	4
PLATE 2: THE EARTH'S PLACE IN TIME	6
The Earth and Its Dynamic Processes	
PLATE 3: THE EARTH: A BRIEF DESCRIPTION	8
PLATE 4: THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD	10
PLATE 5: THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EARTH'S PROCESSES	12
PLATE 6: PLATE TECTONICS	14
PLATE 7: THE ROCK CYCLE	16
PLATE 8: THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE—EROSION	18
PLATE 9: THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE ON EARTH	20
The Oceans and the Atmosphere	
PLATE 10: THE EARTH'S MOTIONS	22
PLATE 11: THE CIRCULATION OF THE OCEANS	24
PLATE 12: THE CIRCULATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE	26
PLATE 13: WEATHER SYSTEMS	28
PLATE 14: THE STARS' EFFECT ON THE EARTH'S CLIMATE	30
The Universe: Its Past and Future	
PLATE 15: THE EARTH'S ANCESTORS	32
PLATE 16: THE STARS AND OUR FUTURE—A NEW ASTROLOGY	34

PART I



GEOLOGY	36
CHAPTER 2	
GEOLOGY AND MINERALS	39
Geology: A Brief Overview	40
OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION	41
Minerals	42
IDENTIFICATION OF MINERALS	43
Color	43

Streak	44
Luster	44
Hardness	44
Crystal Form	45
Cleavage	45
Fracture	48
Specific Gravity	48
ROCK-FORMING SILICATE MINERALS	49
OTHER COMMON MINERALS	52
Summary	55
Key Terms	55
Review Questions	56
Suggested Readings	57
CHAPTER 3	
ROCKS, WEATHERING, AND MINERAL RESOURCES	59
Igneous Rocks	60
TEXTURE AND OCCURRENCE	62
VOLCANOES AND VOLCANIC ROCKS	63
Types of Volcanoes	64
IGNEOUS ACTIVITY AND PLATE TECTONICS	66
Weathering	68
SOILS	71
Sedimentary Rocks	72
CLASTIC SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	73
NONCLASTIC SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	74
FEATURES OF SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	75
Metamorphic Rocks	77
FOLIATED METAMORPHIC ROCKS	78
NONFOLIATED METAMORPHIC ROCKS	79
UNDERSTANDING METAMORPHIC ROCKS	80
Mineral Resources	80
EXHAUSTIBILITY OF RESOURCES	81
TYPES OF MINERAL RESOURCES	82
Igneous Processes	82
Metamorphic Processes	84
Sedimentary Processes	84
Weathering Processes	85
Energy Sources	87
Summary	89
Key Terms	90
Review Questions	91
Suggested Readings	93

CHAPTER 4

**PLATE TECTONICS AND THE EARTH'S
SURFACE STRUCTURE**

Evidence for Continental Drift	95
The Earth's Magnetism	96
Sea-Floor Spreading	97
Plate Tectonics	101
Continents	106
DEFORMED ROCKS	111
Folds	111
Faults	112
LARGER FEATURES OF CONTINENTS	115
Summary	120
Key Terms	121
Review Questions	121
Suggested Readings	123

CHAPTER 5

**EARTHQUAKES AND THE EARTH'S
INTERIOR**

Earthquakes	125
EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND CONTROL	126
Internal Structure of the Earth	130
DEEP INTERIOR	134
CRUST	136
Cause of Plate Tectonics and Sea-Floor Spreading	139
Summary	141
Key Terms	142
Review Questions	142
Suggested Readings	143

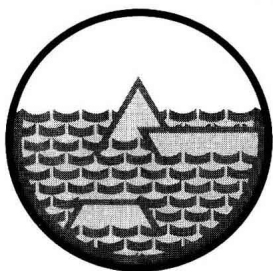
CHAPTER 6

EROSION SCULPTURES THE SURFACE

Types of Downslope Mass Movement	145
Geologic Role of Rivers	146
TRANSPORTATION	150
EROSION	150
DEPOSITION	152
GRADED RIVERS	153
DEVELOPMENT OF VALLEYS	154
DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPES	157
Ground Water	158
GEOLOGIC ROLE OF GROUND WATER	159

Deserts and Wind	162
WIND	163
Glaciers	166
MOUNTAIN GLACIERS	166
CONTINENTAL GLACIERS	169
Summary	172
Key Terms	173
Review Questions	173
Suggested Readings	175
 CHAPTER 7	
EARTH HISTORY: FOSSILS, TIME, AND PLATE TECTONICS	177
Relative Age of Rocks	178
Absolute Age of Rocks	181
RADIOACTIVE DATING	182
Correlation	184
Unconformities	185
Plate Tectonics and Life—A Brief Earth History	187
Summary	196
Key Terms	197
Review Questions	198
Suggested Readings	199

PART II

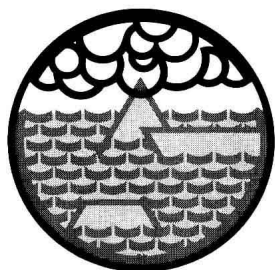


OCEANOGRAPHY	200
 CHAPTER 8	
THE OCEAN FLOORS AND THEIR SEDIMENTS	203
Oceanography	204
Continental Shelf	206
Continental Slope	207
The Ocean Basin Floors	209
ABYSSAL PLAINS	209
SUBMARINE MOUNTAINS	210
Mid-Ocean Ridges	213
Volcanic Island Arcs and Deep Trenches	214
Sea-Floor Spreading	215
Sea-Floor Sediments	216
LITHOGENOUS SEDIMENT	217
BIOGENOUS SEDIMENT	218

HYDROGENOUS SEDIMENT	218
Summary	220
Key Terms	222
Review Questions	222
Suggested Readings	223
 CHAPTER 9	
OCEAN WATER AND ITS CIRCULATION	225
Sea Water	226
Layering in the Open Ocean	228
SURFACE ZONE	228
TRANSITION ZONE	229
DEEP ZONE	229
Development of the Thermocline	231
Development of the Halocline	231
Surface Currents	231
CORIOLIS EFFECT	233
GYRES	233
EKMAN SPIRAL	234
MAPPING OCEAN CURRENTS	235
Vertical Currents	236
Circulation of the Deep Waters	237
Summary	239
Key Terms	240
Review Questions	240
Suggested Readings	241
 CHAPTER 10	
THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT	243
Tides	244
Waves	248
CHARACTERISTICS	248
BREAKING WAVES	250
REFRACTION AND LONGSHORE CURRENTS	251
Wave Erosion	255
Wave Transportation	256
Evolution of Shorelines	257
Estuaries	260
Summary	263
Key Terms	264

Review Questions	264
Suggested Readings	265

PART III



METEOROLOGY	266
CHAPTER 11	
THE ATMOSPHERE AND ITS ENERGY	269
Atmosphere	270
COMPOSITION	270
STRUCTURE	272
Heat and Temperature	273
TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENT	273
HEAT TRANSFER	275
Heating of the Atmosphere	278
HEAT BALANCE	278
SUN'S ILLUMINATION	284
HEAT TRANSPORT	286
TEMPERATURE LAG	289
Summary	289
Key Terms	290
Review Questions	291
Suggested Readings	291
CHAPTER 12	
MOISTURE IN THE ATMOSPHERE	293
Humidity, Relative Humidity, and Dew Point	294
MEASUREMENT OF RELATIVE HUMIDITY	295
Change of State and Latent Heat	296
Lapse Rates and Vertical Stability	298
Condensation	300
Clouds	301
FOG	304
VERTICAL MOTION AND CLOUD FORMATION	304
Precipitation	306
FORMATION	306
TYPES OF PRECIPITATION	307
MEASUREMENT OF PRECIPITATION	308
Summary	309
Key Terms	310
Review Questions	310
Suggested Readings	311

CHAPTER 13

AIR IN MOTION: PRESSURE AND WIND	313
Atmospheric Pressure	314
Measuring Atmospheric Pressure	316
Wind	317
PRESSURE GRADIENT	317
CORIOLIS EFFECT	318
GEOSTROPHIC WIND	321
FRICTION	322
MEASUREMENT OF WIND	323
Winds in High-Pressure and Low-Pressure Regions	323
Local Winds	325
SEA-LAND BREEZES	325
MONSOONS	326
VALLEY-MOUNTAIN WINDS	326
CHINOOK (FOEHN) WINDS	327
Planetary Circulation	327
SEASONAL CHANGES AND THE REAL EARTH	330
Summary	332
Key Terms	333
Review Questions	333
Suggested Readings	335

CHAPTER 14

STORMS	337
Air Masses	338
Fronts	340
COLD FRONTS	341
WARM FRONTS	342
OCCLUDED FRONTS	343
STATIONARY FRONTS	343
Cyclonic Storms of the Middle Latitudes	344
Severe Storms	347
THUNDERSTORMS	347
Local Thunderstorms	347
Organized Thunderstorms	352
Lightning and Thunder	353
TORNADOES	355
HURRICANES	357
Forecasting	359
Summary	360

Key Terms	361
Review Questions	362
Suggested Readings	363
CHAPTER 15	
CLIMATES AND CHANGING CLIMATES	365
Climate	366
Climatic Change	366
EXTERNAL CAUSES OF CLIMATIC CHANGE	370
Geologic Causes	370
Astronomical Causes	370
Atmospheric Transparency Changes	371
HUMAN CAUSES OF CLIMATIC CHANGE	371
Urban Weather	372
Air Pollution	373
Gaseous Pollutants	373
Concentration of Pollutants—Inversions	375
Types of Pollution	376
Other Inadvertent Causes of Climatic Change	377
DELIBERATE CLIMATE MODIFICATION	378
Summary	379
Key Terms	380
Review Questions	380
Suggested Readings	381

PART IV



ASTRONOMY	382
CHAPTER 16	
THE EARTH AS A PLANET	385
Ancient Astronomy	386
The Beginnings of Modern Astronomy	393
Earth's Motions	399
REVOLUTION	399
PRECESSION	399
CALENDARS	400
ROTATION AND TIME	401
The Moon's Motions	402
Light, Spectra, and Telescopes	406
LIGHT AND OTHER ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION	406
SPECTRA	407
DOPPLER EFFECT	409
LENSES, MIRRORS, AND OPTICAL TELESCOPES	410
TELESCOPES FOR INVISIBLE RADIATION	412
Summary	415

Key Terms	417
Review Questions	417
Suggested Readings	419

CHAPTER 17

THE SOLAR SYSTEM 421**The Planets** 422

INNER, OR TERRESTRIAL, PLANETS 422

Earth 422

Moon 425

Mercury 431

Venus 434

Mars 437

OUTER, OR JOVIAN, PLANETS 442

Jupiter 442

Saturn 446

Uranus and Neptune 447

Pluto 448

Satellites of the Jovian Planets 449

JUPITER'S SATELLITES 449

SATURN'S SATELLITES 455

SATELLITES OF URANUS AND NEPTUNE 456

Asteroids 457**Comets** 457**Meteors and Meteorites** 459**Origin of the Solar System** 460**Summary** 462**Key Terms** 465**Review Questions** 465**Suggested Readings** 467

CHAPTER 18

SUN, STARS, AND UNIVERSE 469**The Sun** 470

STRUCTURE OF THE SUN 470

SURFACE ACTIVITY OF THE SUN 472

Measuring the Properties of Stars 475

DISTANCE—PARALLAX 475

LUMINOSITY AND MAGNITUDE 477

CLASSIFICATION OF STARS—COMPOSITION AND
TEMPERATURE 478**H-R Diagram** 479

DISTANCE—SPECTRAL TYPE 479

MAGNETIC FIELD, ROTATION, AND DIAMETER 480

MASS—BINARY STARS	481
DISTANCE—CEPHEID VARIABLE STARS	483
Evolution of Stars	483
H-R DIAGRAM—GIANTS, DWARFS, AND MAIN-SEQUENCE STARS	484
INTERNAL PROCESSES	485
LIFE CYCLES OF STARS	486
Discovery of Galaxies	489
Star Clusters	491
Interstellar Material	493
Milky Way Galaxy	494
Galaxies	496
Red Shift	497
Quasars	498
Summary	499
Key Terms	501
Review Questions	502
Suggested Readings	504
APPENDIX A	
UNIT SYSTEMS	505
APPENDIX B	
MINERAL IDENTIFICATION TABLE	508
APPENDIX C	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS	512
APPENDIX D	
RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND DEW POINT TABLES	514
APPENDIX E	
STAR MAPS	516
GLOSSARY	521
INDEX	543