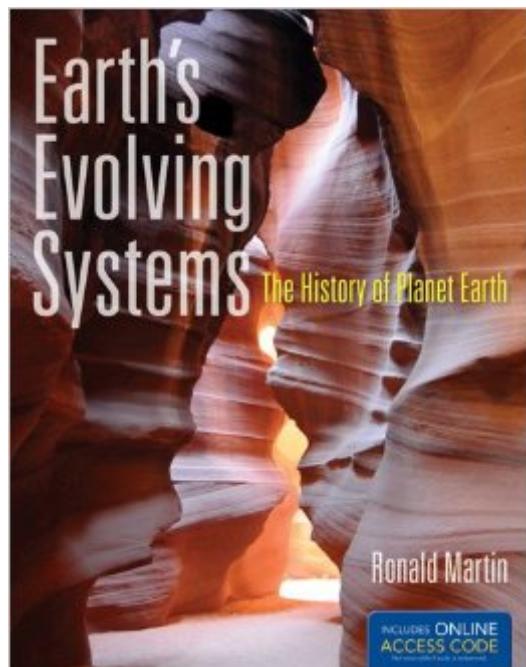


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# Earth's Evolving Systems: The History Of Planet Earth



## Synopsis

**Earth's Evolving Systems: The History of Planet Earth** is intended as an introductory text that examines the evolution of the Earth and its life from a systems point of view. The text covers major topics like the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere, and discusses how these systems interacted with each other and evolved through geologic time. The author takes care to integrate the current state of our Earth systems with those of the past in an effort to develop students' interests in Earth system in general. It begins by examining the basics of Earth systems, including discussions of sedimentation, evolution, stratigraphy, and plate tectonics. Part Two looks at the beginning of time with the origin of the Earth and discusses its early evolution, through the origin of life and its evolution to multicellularity. The third section goes on to cover the Paleozoic through the Neogene eras, discussing topics such as tectonics, mountain building, sea level, climate, life, and mass extinctions in each era. The final part moves on to the modern world, discussing the interactions between humans and Earth systems, with an emphasis on the climatic system.

**Key Features of Earth's Evolving System:**

- Presents the Earth as a continuously evolving and dynamic planet whose history consists of a succession of vastly different worlds very much unlike our modern Earth.
- Discusses the scientific method in Chapter 1, emphasizing how historical geology differs from the standard "scientific method" presented as the paradigm of experimental sciences and of all science.
- Bridges traditional historical geology texts by discussing historical information in the context of the interaction and integration of Earth systems through geologic time by using the tectonic (Wilson) cycle as a unifying theme.
- Concentrates on North America but offers a global perspective on Earth systems on processes such as orogenesis, seaways, and ocean circulation, the evolution of life, and mass extinction.
- Discusses rapid climate change and anthropogenic impacts in the context of a continuously evolving Earth whose environments are now being altered by anthropogenic climate change.
- End-of-chapter materials include: general review questions, more challenging "Food for Thought" questions, key terms listing, and a "Sources and Further Readings" section.
- Boxes throughout the text highlight interesting bits of related information, unusual occurrences, or elaborates on material presented in the text

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Trying to take tests based off of this book have been hard as the current instructor expects you to know how to apply the information in a different manner than what is read. It's hard to rate, knowing that if the tests were created in mind of the book's reading it would make more sense. However in my case the reading is actually not sufficient for the tests created. I assume the tests are from a test creation of the publisher so therefore hold some accountability to their tests being a step further than the detail in the book... imo.

This textbook is the foundation for Geology students and anyone who wants to learn Geologic principles applied to Earth Sciences alike. I simply cannot say enough how much I love this textbook and how informative it turned out to be. I recommend this textbook to anyone. I hope that this book will make its way into EVERY geology class not only in the U.S. but worldwide. I have had the pleasure of having Dr. Ronald Martin as a professor and this textbook embodies his teaching style and his VAST knowledge base. READ IT and you WILL NOT be disappointed.

Color, plenty of graphs, drawings, and other figures. I only gave the textbook 4 stars because sometimes (too many times) the figure descriptions are seriously lacking. For example, figure 10.22. The text discusses the "sudden appearance" of trilobites as marking the base of the Phanerozoic, explaining that the sudden appearance is actually due to erosion/nondeposition. The figure shows lower, middle, and upper cambrian trilobites. This figure doesn't illustrate the text referring to it. Also, 3 trilobites are colored yellow, the rest are grey. Why are some yellow? No answer in the text or the figure caption. I guess I'll let my imagination run wild as to why those 3 trilobites are special. Probably something to do with dinosaurs... see? Figures need clear and concise captions and the figure should match the appropriate text!

Very happy with the shipment time and the book condition. The book was brand new and the price was so much more economical than through the University bookstore

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