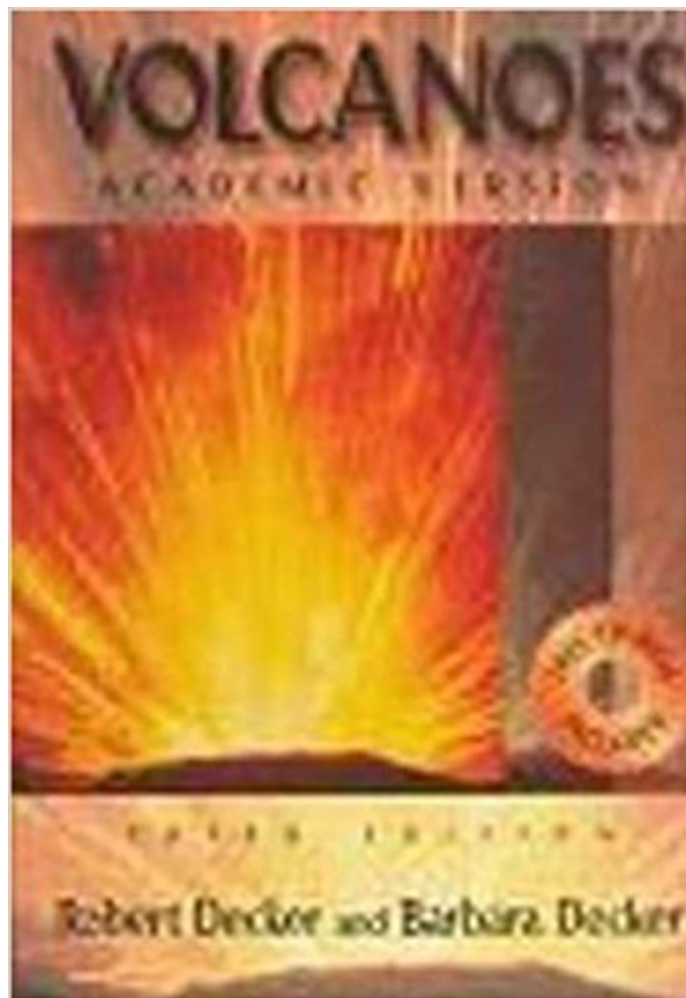


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Volcanoes (Third Edition)



Synopsis

Strong writing and stunning photographs enliven the discussion of the science behind volcanoes. Provides snapshot collection of famous volcanoes with many first-person accounts.

Book Information

Paperback: 321 pages

Publisher: W.H. Freeman & Company, Inc.; Third Edition edition (1997)

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Customer Reviews

"This third edition of Volcanoes published by Freeman, written by the husband and wife team Decker and Decker, provides healthy competition for the others...Examples and descriptions of real eruptions are used to illustrate the processes of volcanic eruptions. These are presented at a level readable by the interested lay person but in sufficient depth to be useful for the student of volcanology...It's a worthy addition to the volcanologist's bookshelf either at home or in the office." -- IAVCEI News --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

ROBERT DECKER taught at Dartmouth College for 25 years, spent 5 years as the Scientist-in-Charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and has worked with the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) since 1979. BARBARA DECKER is a Professional Science Writer. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I hardly ever read a college text straight through, but this book was so informative and lucidly written, I could scarcely put it down. I imagine "Volcanoes" is used as a freshman introductory course, as there is very little geological mumbo-jumbo about say, the differences between a reverse dip slip fault and a left lateral strike slip fault. In fact, I wish I'd read this book first, before "The

Encyclopedia of Earthquakes and Volcanoes" or "Perils of a Restless Planet." Its definitions are clear and easy to remember, and usually accompanied by a photograph or drawing. One of my favorites is a photograph of the San Andreas fault, which is a right lateral fault, "so called because for a person standing on either plate, the sense of motion on the opposite side is to the right." Now, at least I understand the difference between left and right lateral faults. Dip slips and strike slips will have to wait for another book for geometrically-challenged folks like me---I can't just close my eyes and visualize a three dimensional object, unless prompted by very clear diagrams and text. This book is an introduction to the geology of volcanoes (plate tectonics, the formation of mineral deposits, etc.), rather than a series of stories about dangerous volcanoes, although there is an appendix on "The World's 101 Most Notorious Volcanoes." One of my favorite chapters, "Volcanic Power" has little to do with volcanoes as we usually picture them, e.g. an erupting strato-volcano like Mt. Vesuvius. It is about geothermal energy, and why it might play an important role in our future: "Even though geothermal power is still an infant and largely unproved industry, its potential makes it worth serious effort and investment. The U.S. Geological Survey in a recent assessment of potential geothermal energy resources in the fifty states to depths of 10 kilometers listed the following estimates: hydrothermal reservoirs, 12×10^{21} joules, or about 2 times the energy in the world's oil reserves; hot dry rock, 32×10^{24} joules, or about 6000 times the energy in the world's oil reserves; magma reservoirs, 4×10^{23} joules, or about 80 times the energy in the world's oil reserves." In light of recent history, perhaps we should be investing more research in our geothermal resources. Read "Volcanoes" if you have any interest at all in geology. It would even make a good high school text, although it is a bit dated: my copy was published in 1981, but the only thing that struck me as out-of-date was a diagram of the Earth's crustal plates---the Juan de Fuca plate was labeled 'Gorda Plate,' although everything was pretty much in the right place. Just be sure to buy the revised and expanded version that was published in 1989.

There is much more to the Geological processes of Plate Tectonics than can be exposed in this small paperback. Required reading for a University course, it's an easy read with a wealth of illustrations and explains the basics in understandable language, explaining technical jargon when it appears. This is a 'get your feet wet' book for the novice, suitable to all ages capable of reading moderately technical texts. It's a quick read and the entire book can possibly be read and absorbed in a day or two, given the desire to do so.

Very interesting book

This is a great vintage hardback. I needed it for class, and now I enjoy reading it for fun. Don't be afraid to get less than mint condition books.

Came without a cover, which was expected. I think this book is a bit dated, but contains a good amount of information on a topic that isn't very well covered.

The shopping was quick. The book was in good quality condition. This was the right product I was needing for school.

The book is very informative and explains and defines all information needed to start to understand how volcanoes in history and present day have erupted or are active .

Old, out of date and not in line with professors notes.

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