

The first edition of Dr Rice's best-selling *Fundamentals of Geomorphology* broke new ground by incorporating into a modern geomorphology text full consideration of the concept of plate tectonics. Now, in this revised second edition, this theme is developed further but the author has also taken the opportunity to enlarge upon current views regarding the magnitude and frequency of climatic change. The result is a thoroughly up-to-date and comprehensive review of the many facets that contribute towards the scientific study of landforms. Erosional and depositional processes associated with the work of water, wind and ice are discussed in detail, as is the role of these in shaping the coastlines of the world.

Fundamentals of Geomorphology looks afresh at the relationship between landforms and tectonic movements. By viewing the surface of the globe as the interface between two energy systems, one fuelled by the sun and the other by internal sources within the earth, Dr Rice unites these two strands of the earth sciences within a simple format that will be readily comprehensible to first-year undergraduate students.

The book is in five main parts. The first discusses the form and constitution of the globe and in particular the mobility of the crust; the ideas of plate tectonics

provide a framework for explaining the gross relief patterns of the earth. The second and longest explores the processes by which subaerial agents, including both water and wind, convert the surface of the globe into the familiar everyday pattern of hills and valleys. The third part covers the fields of glacial and periglacial geomorphology, paying particular attention to modern cold environments as a guide to the interpretation of relict landforms in what are now temperate regions. The penultimate section provides a review of coastal geomorphology, stressing the interplay between shallow-water marine processes and the fluctuating sea-level of the recent geological past. The book concludes with a section outlining conceptual frameworks within which landform studies are presently being undertaken, reflecting a noteworthy resurgence of interest in the philosophy of the subject.

The approach is quantitative without being mathematical; and the book clearly explains to the non-specialist how modern measurements are casting new light on old problems, and at the same time throwing up new topics for investigation. Here at last is an original textbook which, while recognising throughout the needs and limitations of the reader coming fresh to the subject, does full justice to the vigour and complexity of geomorphology today.

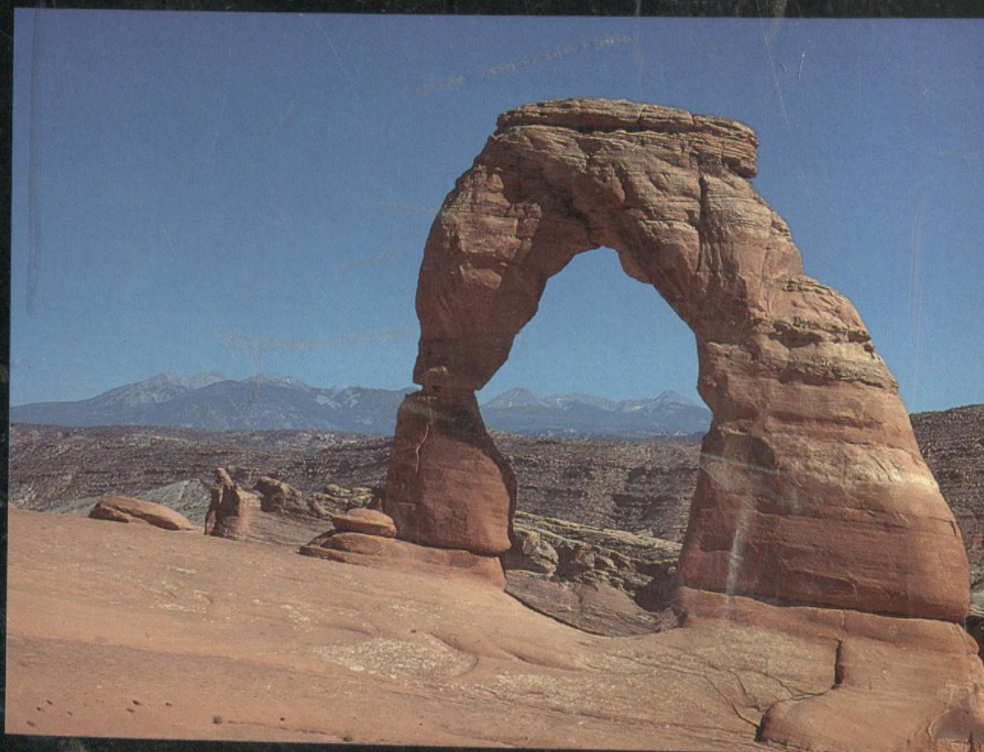
R J Rice is Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of Leicester. He has published widely in specialist journals, but *Fundamentals of Geomorphology* was his first book.

From reviews of the first edition:

"R J Rice's book is exactly what is needed for first-year undergraduates. It gives a near-perfect statement of the modern subject as taught in universities and provides the essential basis for specialist courses in the second and third years"

Geographical Magazine

Front cover photograph: Sandstone arch, 20m. high, formed by desert weathering. Utah, USA. By kind permission of Robert Harding Picture Library Ltd.



 **Longman
Scientific &
Technical**

Copublished in the United States with
John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York
ISBN 0-470-20690-X (USA only)

ISBN 0-582-30151-3



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