

## REVIEWS OF EARLIER EDITIONS

'...a key resource for both amateur and professional geologists alike, remarkably squeezing virtually all the basics of our subject into some 135 pages with many informative illustrations.'

*European Geologist*

'For any basic level geology book to succeed, it needs to be well written and include great pictures and diagrams – and this book does not disappoint. This little guide covers everything you would expect from a basic level geology book, including the rock cycle, plate tectonics, fossils and industrial uses for geology. It also includes a great glossary.'

*Deposits Magazine*

'...a great little book...in this book Graham Park has captured the spirit of geology...packed with essential information... For the price, basic level geology books do not come any better.'

*Geoscientist*

---

Our world is made of rock. Although much of the Earth's surface is covered by vegetation, concrete or water, if one digs down far enough solid rock will always be found. Those who live in a landscape where rock outcrops are obvious will have wondered about the kind of rocks they are looking at and how they came to be where they are now.

Graham Park's introductory book has swiftly established itself as a key resource for those looking for a straightforward explanation of what geology tells us about the world. Many objects of great beauty and which excite our curiosity, such as crystals or fossils, are to be found by examining rocks. In particular fossils, whilst interesting in themselves, tell us from their context in geological time of biological evolution and these clues give an insight into the origins of life on earth.

Copiously illustrated, this book is intended for those whose interest in geology has been awakened, perhaps by media coverage of earthquakes or of dinosaurs, and want to know more. It has proved an ideal primer for those considering the study of earth sciences more formally. Technical terms are kept to a minimum and are explained in a glossary.

**Graham Park** is a professional geologist living in Scotland. He hopes that this book will have the same impact on others that his own first reading about geology had on him, by kindling a lifelong fascination with his subject.

ISBN: 978-1-780460-75-8



Cover images: Background – Shutterstock©Valery Kraynov; azurite cut-out – Shutterstock©Miriam Doerr Martin Frommherz; goniatite panel – Orcadian Stone Company Museum, Golspie, Sutherland; waterfall panel – author; lava panel – Shutterstock©Budkov Denis.

DUNEDIN

EDINBURGH ♦ LONDON



*Acknowledgements* vi

*List of tables and illustrations* vii

*Sourced illustrations* ix

*Preface: A world of rock* x

- 1** Crystals, minerals and gemstones 1
- 2** Volcanoes and melted rock 9
- 3** Shaping the land 21
- 4** Mud, sand and other deposits 34
- 5** Moving continents and making mountains 42
- 6** Earthquakes and faults 55
- 7** Squeezing and stretching – rock deformation 65
- 8** Geological time and the age of the Earth 71
- 9** Fossils – a history of life 77
- 10** Turning the pages – Earth history 91
- 11** Geology and industry 105

*Glossary* 114

*Further Reading* 134