"We hope that [students] take away from this text an enhanced understanding of how our planet operates, of how to protect themselves and their societies from natural disasters, and of how to minimize their impacts on Earth systems through wise use of resources. We also hope they take away a sense of awe and reverence for the amazing world we live in." —from the Preface

The 21st century has been a time of increasingly more complex environmental events—earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, floods, wildfires, droughts, polar vortexes. It is more apparent than ever that understanding these events requires studying how all of Earth's different systems—atmosphere, hydrosphere, pedosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere—interact with each other.

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