

Brief Contents

Introduction

Physical Geography and the Tools
Geographers Use 2

Chapter 1

The Earth as a Rotating Planet 36

Chapter 2

The Earth's Global Energy Balance 56

Chapter 3

Air Temperature 82

Chapter 4

Atmospheric Moisture and Precipitation 112

Chapter 5

Winds and Global Circulation 150

Chapter 6

Weather Systems 184

Chapter 7

Global Climates and Climate Change 218

Chapter 8

Biogeographic Processes 264

Chapter 9

Global Biogeography 302

Chapter 10

Global Soils 340

Chapter 11

Earth Materials and Plate Tectonics 374

Chapter 12

Tectonic and Volcanic Landforms 414

Chapter 13

Weathering and Mass Wasting 444

Chapter 14

Freshwater of the Continents 464

Chapter 15

Landforms Made by Running Water 498

Chapter 16

Landforms Made by Waves and Wind 526

Chapter 17

Glacial and Periglacial Landforms 560

Appendix 1

Climate Definitions and Boundaries 591

Appendix 2

Conversion Factors 592

Appendix 3

Topographic Map Symbols 593

Glossary 595

Illustration Credits 623

Index 625