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# Violent Earth



## Synopsis

A spectacular reference book for the entire family, *Violent Earth* is an authoritative, stimulating, and visually arresting exploration of the dramatic forces that are constantly shaping our planet – often without warning and with devastating results. Using powerful photography, specially commissioned illustrations, and intuitive infographics, *Violent Earth* explores plate tectonics, vulcanology, and seismology in unprecedented detail. Drawing on the latest scientific research and including detailed maps, revealing areas of key geological activity, such as earthquake zones, volcanic sites, and plate boundaries, *Violent Earth* also looks at some of the most famous events associated with these places, from the historic eruptions of Laki, Iceland, which is credited with triggering the French Revolution, to the devastating earthquake in Haiti that killed more than 250,000 people in 2010.

**AUTHOR INFO:** Established in 1846, The Smithsonian Institution is a world renowned research center, dedicated to public education, national service, and scholarship in the arts, sciences, and history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an armchair geologist I am always looking for books that are understandable to a non-scientist but that also explain difficult geological concepts in depth. This book does both extremely well. Full color photographs and illustrations show how earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and other large scale natural disasters are caused and how they play out in human lives and planet earth at large. Most natural disasters play out on a scale that is very difficult for us to understand, but the drawings and explanations in this book make these concepts understandable in a way that I have never

experienced before. As with all DK books the photographs and drawings are of an exceptional quality. This book, however, goes into much more detail than the average DK book. Published in 2011 it even includes information on the quake and tsunami in Japan. While this book is written in a somewhat chronological way (it starts with the creation of planet Earth and moves forward), it also functions much like a reference book and can be read in any order. I highly recommend this book for anyone who finds volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters fascinating and wants to understand them in a holistic way.

DK publishing, you are simply amazing!!!! I love this book very very much. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand the dynamic and destructive forces of our planet. I was mostly amazed by the photography in this book. From Volcanoes to Earthquakes, to Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Extreme Weather and Tsunamis, this book provides a holistic look of the geologic and dynamic processes behind these natural phenomenon's. I bless DK for all of their research and their professionalism as well as their commitment to tell the story of our planet's forces in a way that has never been done before or since in their years as a book company that strives for education and learning. DK, continue with your work and I praise you all for the best work that you have done. Thank you. Sincerely, Curtis Spratte-Lennington.

Violent Earth presents remarkably illustrated and carefully explained coverage of geological disasters. All audiences will find this coverage accessible, because it's not overly technical. Even a jaded reader will find the superbly apt and richly detailed illustrations worth the time to examine at length. This topic gratifies our sense of curiosity, and the individual discussions are short and self-contained. The result is one of the best coffee table books on any subject. Violent Earth gives a peaceful review of the most impressive mountains, and adds new light by showing that the best of the Himalayas are in the 27,000-28,000 foot range, the Andes includes many peaks in the 22,000 foot range, while the Rockies impress us with only 14,000 feet. The outstanding chapter on volcanoes covers 1/3 of the book, and explains a half dozen different types of volcanic explosions, both with understandable schematic drawings and with spectacular photographs. The chapters on earthquakes and extreme weather give good discussion and include appropriate coverage of the tsunamis and weird weather events that have kicked off the 21st century. If you see a copy of this book anywhere and you have the spare time, reach out and open it up and learn about the dangerous ways of our world.

This is a superbly produced book, brilliantly designed, very well printed on good quality coated paper, full of spectacular double-page spreads and peppered with many stunning photographs. At one page-turn after another you find yourself gushing, "What a display! What a cleverly integrated spread! What a picture! But it's not all display. If you read from beginning to end you find the text is as integrated as the page displays. The authors are writing primarily for a non-expert readership and so they develop the geological and related concepts from the basics to the complex, smoothly integrating the definitions of technical terms and just as smoothly repeating them at intervals so as to cater for both the start-to-finish reader and the reference reader seeking information on a particular subject. There's rarely a dull moment, as they break up their text with boxes, panels, tables, lists and many wonderful diagrams. The artists and illustrators deserve a medal for their efforts. I finished the book with a greatly improved knowledge of volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, mountains, the oceans and extreme weather. Learning has rarely been so pleasant.

If you buy many science books, you know DK Publishing has set the new standard for quality. This one is no exception - stunning photos, great design, good writing - and all at an affordable price. I have quite a few volcano books - if you're going to buy just one - this is the one! Bravo to the great staff at DK.

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