Contents

Introduction to the Student v	
Acknowledgments vii	
Introduction to the Instructor ix	
CHAPTER 1 Planet Earth and Its Atmosphere	
The Physical Character of Earth Earth-Sun Relations 11 The Nature of Air and the	4
Atmosphere 13	
Summary 18	

CHAPTER 2

3

THE FORCES AND SYSTEMS
ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE21

Energy and Processes on the Earth's Surface 22 The Energy Balance Concept 24 Energy, Heat, and Temperature 27 Summary 32

CHAPTER 3 _____ THE FLOW OF RADIATION TO AND FROM EARTH

Solar and Earth Radiation36Receipt of Solar Radiation38

35

xii CONTENTS

Other Effects on Solar Radiation43The Shortwave Radiation Balance46Longwave Radiation48Summary50

CHAPTER 4 _____ THE HEATING OF LAND, WATER AND AIR

The Essential Energy Balance54Heat Behavior in Earth Materials56Thermal Conditions of the Soil59Heat Flow in the Atmosphere62Summary70

53

CHAPTER 5_____ THE CIRCULATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS 73

Global Implications of the Energy
Balance74Atmospheric Circulation: Factors and
Controls75The General Circulation of the
Atmosphere81Oceanic Circulation84
SummarySummary88

CHAPTER 6 ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE, PRECIPITATION, AND WEATHER 91

Water Vapor in the Atmosphere 92 Air Movement and Moisture Condensation 93 Precipitation Types and Associated Weather 99 Summary 115

THE HYDROLOGIC SYSTEM	117
The Hydrologic Cycle118Water Balance of the ContinentsThe Soil-Moisture Balance132Summary135	125

CHAPTER 8	
CLIMATES OF THE WORLD	139
Classifying Climates 139	
Climate on a Hypothetical Earth	140
Schemes for Classifying Climates	144
World Climates 146	
Summary 156	

CHAPTER 9	
CLIMATE CHANGE: THEN AND NOW	159
Climatic Change in Perspective	160
Urbanization and Climatic Change	167
The Urban Climate 171	
Summary 173	

CHAPTER 10	
BASIC PLANTS AND	
VEGETATION OF THE	
WORLD	177
The Higher Plants178Ways of Classifying Plants179	
Major Vegetation Types of the	
Continents 183	
Summary 195	

CHAPTER 11	
PLANT PROCESSES IN THE	
ECOSYSTEM	199
Transpiration and Moisture Flow Respiration and Photosynthesis Plant Growth and Production 2	200 202 05
Energy Flow in Plant Ecosystems	211
Summary 213	211

CHAPTER 12	
PATTERNS AND PROCESSES	
OF VEGETATION	
DISTRIBUTIONS	217
Plant Distribution 218	
Tolerance, Stress, and Disturbance	218
Adaptation to the Environment	221
Geographic Influences on Plant	
Distributions 225	
Models of Change in the Plant	
Cover 231	

Summary 235

CHAPTER 13 _____ THE MATERIALS AND PROCESSES OF SOIL 239

General Characteristics of Soil240Soil Properties242The Soil-Moisture System246Biochemical Processes in the
Solum249Summary255

CHAPTER 14 ______ SOIL FORMATION, CLASSIFICATION, AND PROBLEMS

259

Soil Formation and the Environment 260

Soil Classification 266 Problem Soils and Soil Problems 273 Summary 279

CHAPTER 15	<u> </u>
STRUCTURE AND	
COMPOSITION OF THE	
SOLID EARTH	283
The Shape of the Earth's Surface The Crust and Below 288 Earthquakes 292	284
Rocks and Minerals of the Crust	294
Summary 301	

CHAPTER 16	
CRUSTAL MECHANICS, ROCK	
STRUCTURES, AND RELATED LANDFORMS	305
The Meyoment and Distribution of	

The Movement and Distribution of
Tectonic Plates307Activity on the Edges of Plates313Driving Force of Plate Tectonics318Mountain Building by Folding and
Faulting319Volcanism330
SummarySummary332

CHAPTER 17 INFILTRATION AND GROUNDWATER		335
Reception of Precipitation Water in the Soil 339	336	
Groundwater 341		
Groundwater Withdrawal	347	
Summary 354		

CHAPTER 18 RUNOFF, STREAMFLOW, AND FLOODING	359
The Nature of Runoff360Drainage Basins and StreamNetworks361Runoff—Precipitation Relations364Human Impact on Drainage	
Systems 368 Floods 371 Summary 379	
CHAPTER 19 WEATHERING, SLOPE EROSION, AND LANDFORMS	383
Weathering 384 Slope Erosion by Rainfall and Runoff 391 Mass Movement 396 Formation of Hillslopes 402 Summary 409	

CHAPTER 20_____ THE WORK OF STREAMS IN SHAPING THE LAND 413

Flow Characteristics of Streams	414
Channel and Valley Features	420
Karst Processes and Topography	426
Formation of River-Eroded	
Landscapes 427	
Summary 429	

CHAPTER 21_____ THE FORMATION OF SHORES AND COASTLINES 433

Water in Motion	434	
Wave Energy and	its Distribution	437

Wave Erosion, Sediment Transport, andShore Features441Shoreline Deposition447Principal Types of Coastlines450Sand Conservation and BeachProtectionProtection452Summary454

CHAPTER 22 ______ GLACIAL PROCESSES AND LANDFORMS 457

Glaciers Ancient and Modern458Growth and Motion of Glaciers460The Work of Glaciers465Continental Glaciation and theLandscape471Summary475

CHAPTER 23_____ AIRFLOW AND THE WORK OF WIND ON THE LAND 479

Airflow Near the Earth's Surface 480 Some Geographic Characteristics of Wind 481 Erosion and Transportation by Wind 484 Landforms Produced by Wind Action 489 Summary 493

CHAPTER 24 _____ THE PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA 497

The Canadian Shield and the Eastern
Highlands498The Plains and Lowlands502The Western Mountains and
Plateaus504The Northlands508
SummarySummary509

APPENDIXES		D. Soil Tables	A-25
A. Maps and Map ReadingB. Remote Sensing and Image	A-1	E. Units of Measurements and Conversions	A-31
Interpretation	A-9		
C. Climatic Maps of the United		GLOSSARY	G-1
States	A-19	INDEX	I-1