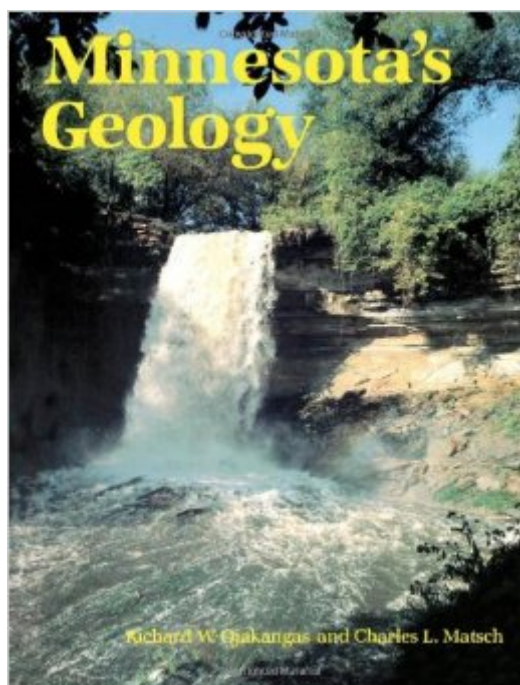


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Minnesota's Geology



Synopsis

Have you ever wondered how the Mississippi River was formed? Or why shark teeth have been found in the Iron Range of the Upper Midwest? Towering mountain ranges, explosive volcanoes, expansive glaciers, and long-extinct forms of both land and sea life were important parts of Minnesota's ancient history. Today the evidence of this remarkable heritage is revealed in the state's rocky outcroppings, stony soils, and thousands of lakes. Minnesota's Geology provides a history of the past 3.5 billion years in the area's development. In accessible language, Minnesota-based geologists Richard W. Ojakangas and Charles L. Matsch tell the story of the state's past and offer a guide for those who want to read geological history firsthand from the rocks and landscapes of today. The book's four sections give a short introduction to geology and Minnesota's place in geologic history; a historic timeline; a look at the metallic minerals, nonmetals, and water present today; and a geologic picture of today's Minnesota arranged in five geographical regions. This book is both a wonderful source of information for rock hounds and the perfect backpacking companion for tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. Lavishly illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs, as well as extensive graphs and maps, Minnesota's Geology will inform and delight for years to come. "This is certainly one of the finest books about the geology of any state in the United States. It is written at a level that should satisfy the visitor, the student, and even most professionals." American Scientist "A stunning guide . . . Minnesota's Geology will be as valuable to the rock hound or student as it is to a trained geologist." Duluth News-Tribune "Minnesota's Geology sets a standard of excellence for books about the geology of a region. . . . an unusually well-written and well-balanced book." Science Books and Films Richard W. Ojakangas and Charles L. Matsch are professors in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a nice little book on Minnesota's geological history, but it's not for everyone. Although it's accessible to those with a basic high school science education, it probably won't be an easy read; and unless you have a particular interest in geology, it probably won't be an interesting read either. For those who've had a little earth history and have an interest in geology, however, it is a nice summation of the geology of the state. While many books on earth history and geology in general give the reader an understanding of the dynamics of structural geology, a sort of layer cake approach to how things got the way they are, this one focuses specifically on the state of Minnesota. It is more like a piece of the layer cake. Because this entails separation from the total picture for the purpose of more intensely defining a particular state, the authors make frequent reference to the whole by adding in information from the surrounding states and occasionally from Canada and the rest of the US to clarify the local geological picture. This is especially the case for periods of rock-time removed by erosion. For the most part, except for glacial and more recent restructuring, the geological record revealed by Minnesota's visible and prospected sites is very old, dating largely to the Precambrian and a little later, depending upon location. This means that, while there are fossils--mostly those of invertebrates--there are no or at least no discovered dinosaur remains, among other things. Any that might have existed have been removed by the action of glaciers over the past million or so years.

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