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NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT
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THE HANDY GEOLOGY ANSWER BOOK **By Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney**

“This book represents a distillation of what we discovered during our travels. And it answers hundreds of basic questions on the most interesting of topics—planet earth. So sit back, grab your rock hammer and hand lens, and enjoy the scenery.”—The authors

It’s right under our feet every day—the earth and all its glorious components. Geology is the study of these components, the physical characteristics of our amazing planet. [**THE HANDY GEOLOGY ANSWER BOOK**](#) (Visible Ink Press / April 2004 / \$21.95 Paperback) provides answers to over a thousand questions about our earth, ranging from active volcanoes, aftershocks and the Andes to the Zambezi River and zircon crystals. Rock and roll is here to stay!

Easy to understand and use, Handy Geology is invaluable for students and general science readers of all ages. It is also a trivia buff’s delight. Readers will find stats for the *deepest* (the Mariana, the deepest-known ocean trench), the *lowest* (the shoreline of the Dead Sea), the *highest* (Mt. Everest), the *longest* river (the Nile), and the *largest* freshwater lake (Lake Superior). But it’s not *just* statistics. Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas Svarney take time to explain the “how and why” of these features.

With more than 100 photographs and illustrations, *The Handy Geology Answer Book* answers questions on topics ranging from the microscopic formation of crystals to the titanic, eons-long processes that form islands, volcanoes, mountains, glaciers, oceans, continents, and even planets.

Readers will find answers to questions such as: *Will California ever fall into the ocean?* (No, not exactly.) *Can faults swallow people during an earthquake?* (No, thank goodness!) *Are any near-Earth objects (NEOs) currently threatening Earth?* (No, not at this writing.)

(Over)

Topics include:

- The Earth's Layers—The Inside Story ... Crust, Mantle, and Cores ... Moving Continents and Plate Tectonics
- All About Minerals—Mineral Forms [Interesting factoids: pencil lead and diamonds are both *polymorphs*; Mohs' Scale is not something invented by the 3 Stooges—it measures hardness] ... Gems Galore
- Rock Families (Not Ozzy's clan)—Rock Divisions ... Familiar Rocks ... Mining
- Geology and Water—Rivers and Streams ... Lakes and Groundwater
- Examining Earthquakes (“Whose fault is it?”)—Earthquake History... Can earthquakes be predicted? ... Famous Faults
- Volcanic Eruptions—Volcano History.. Volcanoes Around the World
Know Your Lavas—*Pahoehoe*(smooth), *Aa-Aa* (coarse and rough), *Pele's hair* and more
- Exploring Caves—Rocking Underground ... Caving the Easy Way

Organized into 21 topical chapters, *Handy Geology* also includes a resource section, providing a solid foundation for further research.

About the authors

Award-winning science writers Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney have roamed far and wide, hiking the European Alps, traveling the oceans, witnessing the upheaval caused by shifting tectonic plates in New Zealand, and visiting nearly every geologic “hot site” in America. The Svarneys recently returned from Antarctica, where they conducted research as part of the National Science Foundation's Antarctica Artists and Writers Program.

Note to editors and producers: To arrange an interview with the Svarneys, contact Mary Beth Perrot at 248-324-0153 or at mbperrot@visibleink.com.

The Handy Geology Answer Book

By Patricia Barnes-Svarney and Thomas E. Svarney

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512 pages

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Ranging from the backyard to outer space, The Handy Geology Answer Book answers nearly 1,100 fundamental questions about this most fascinating science. With more than 100 photographs and illustrations, The Handy Geology Answer Book takes you on a tour of our world. As a result of this experience, he produced seven books on geology that set the stage for the development of modern geology two centuries later. His main contributions were compiling all that was known about mining and smelting during his time and suggesting ways to classify minerals based on their observable properties, such as hardness and color. The award-winning science writers answer such puzzlers as: What is the theory of continental drift? What are polarity reversals? They deliver captivating reading and easy understanding of the complexities that shaped our planet, as they answer nearly 1,000 of the most often asked questions. Tracing the formation of the universe and the planet, investigating the layers of the Earth, and explaining the formation of mountains and bodies of water are just some of the chapters.