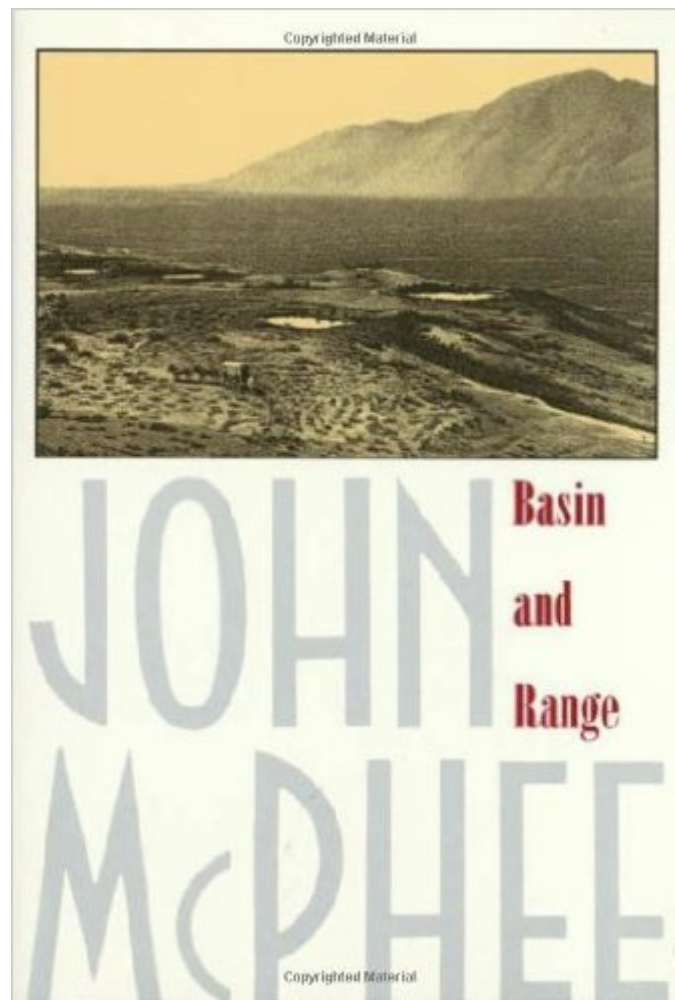


The book was found

Basin And Range



Synopsis

The first of John McPhee's works in his series on geology and geologists, *Basin and Range* is a book of journeys through ancient terrains, always in juxtaposition with travels in the modern world—a history of vanished landscapes, enhanced by the histories of people who bring them to light. The title refers to the physiographic province of the United States that reaches from eastern Utah to eastern California, a silent world of austere beauty, of hundreds of discrete high mountain ranges that are green with junipers and often white with snow. The terrain becomes the setting for a lyrical evocation of the science of geology, with important digressions into the plate-tectonics revolution and the history of the geologic time scale.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; First Edition edition (April 1, 1981)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374109141

ISBN-13: 978-0374109141

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,240,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geology > Specific Locations](#) #4783 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays](#) #29273 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology](#)

Customer Reviews

Reading John McPhee is such a delight that one wonders what he would be like as a teacher. Not a journalism instructor, for which he is amply qualified, but declaiming on science, particularly geology. McPhee is a master in understandably describing geologic processes and the people studying them. Under his touch, the stable earth is brought to life, compressing time and traversing space. Watching an aircraft descend for a landing, he muses that in another time its approach path would be deep under water. He explains how different the perception of time is in the mind of a geologist from that of our own. All civilization is but an eyeblink in contrast with the rise and fall of mountains and seas. According to McPhee, what geologists face is summarized in one sentence: "The summit of Mount Everest is marine limestone." Not long ago, he reminds us, the world was once considered to be like a drying apple. Some areas shrink driving other places to rise leaving a skin of

folds. McPhee describes the history of the idea of plate tectonics and how it confounded this earlier concept. The starting point was an understanding of the earth's age. A Scottish "gentleman," James Hutton was an astute observer and an eloquent speaker. Putting his findings in writing, however, "trampled people with words." Hutton revealed the vast duration of time required to form earth's vistas. He was followed by a herald of Charles Darwin, Charles Lyell. Between them, the age of the earth and of life replaced the established biblical origins. In effect, Hutton had taken the next major step in science after Copernicus. Plate tectonics, a group, rather than an individual's insight, opened new fields of research and provided more detailed views of Earth's processes.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Basin and Range Front Range Descents: Spring and Summer Skiing and Snowboarding In Colorado's Front Range Long Range Shooting Handbook: Complete Beginner's Guide to Long Range Shooting Strike-Slip Deformation, Basin Formation, and Sedimentation (Special Publication (Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists)) Basin Analysis: Principles and Applications Rabies in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin Basin Analysis: Principles and Application to Petroleum Play Assessment Seismic Stratigraphy, Basin Analysis and Reservoir Characterisation (Handbook of Geophysical Exploration: Seismic Exploration) Fishes of Alabama and the Mobile Basin Hydropower Development in the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra Basin: A Prime Prospect for China-India Cooperation Comprehensive River Basin Development: The Tennessee Valley Authority (World Bank Technical Papers) Behind swinging doors: Colorful history of Uinta Basin (Uintah County Library history series) The Desert's Past: A Natural Prehistory of the Great Basin Small and Short-Range Radar Systems (Modern and Practical Approaches to Electrical Engineering) Transitions Theory: Middle Range and Situation Specific Theories in Nursing Research and Practice (Meleis, Transitions Theory) The Frozen Shoulder Workbook: Trigger Point Therapy for Overcoming Pain and Regaining Range of Motion Make Your Own Skin Care Products: How to Create a Range of Nourishing and Hydrating Skin Care Products Interactions between the Craniomandibular System and Cervical Spine: The influence of an unilateral change of occlusion on the upper cervical range of motion (German Edition) The Presidential Range: Its Geologic History and Plate Tectonics The Ultimate Shooting Skills Manual: 212 Essential Range and Field Skills (Outdoor Life)

[Dmca](#)