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## Review - Face of North America

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# REVIEWS

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**Face of North America.** Peter Farb, Harper & Row 1963. Lib. Cong. Cat. No.: 62-14598

In this day of Molecular Biology and Space Travel the teacher and student interested in natural history find it hard to pick up a library book that isn't slanted in this direction. This book by Peter Farb provides a sound natural history of our continent and a welcome break from this above mentioned trend.

It is more than a story book, it is Ecologically and Geologically oriented with the details well documented by the scientist author. The universal theme of "dynamic equilibrium" underlying both geological and ecologic phenomena is present throughout the book.

Here is a book that offers every teacher of Biology and Earth Science as well as their students a chance to gain a solid understanding of our continent's long history and its diverse land, water and life forms. The phenomn of water falls, formation of mountains, lakes and sandy beaches, coral reefs and forest succession are discussed. The areas covered vary from the north woods to the Florida keys, through sea coasts, rivers, prairies and mountains.

The book is well illustrated with both photographs and drawings. There is an outstanding appendix listing and describing the Outstanding Natural Areas of North America by State and Province.

In summary, this is not a text, it is really a guide to the natural history of our continent. It deals largely with geology and ecology of the country but it is done in such a way that everyone who reads this book or even sections of it about areas in which he is living or interested, will come away with an understanding and above all respect for the fabulous natural phenomena about him. I would like to see this book in every High School Library. Perhaps you already have two of Peter Farbs' previous books, **Living Earth** and **The Forest**; both equally fine.

Reviewed by D. J. Schmidt  
University of Iowa, Iowa City

**An Introduction To Modern Chemistry,** Michael J. S. Dewar, Oxford University Press, 1965, New York.

This is a 206 page paperback giving an excellent introduction to modern chemistry for those who presently have a general background in chemistry and physics. A basic knowledge of algebra and trigonometry is necessary in all chapters and a basic knowledge of calculus is needed in the last chapter. Included in the book are discussions of wave mechanics, atomic and molecular structure, statistical mechanics, thermodynamics, and rates of chemical reactions.

This book is a result of several lectures given to freshman students while Professor Dewar was at the University of London.

Reviewed by Verne A. Troxel  
University of Iowa, Iowa City

**Musical Acoustics,** Charles A. Culver, Ph.D., McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. New York, 1956.

"Musical Acoustics" by Charlse A. Culver is a good reference book which gives excellent and comprehensive explanations of the physical aspects of sound. Culver's presentation eliminates most of the quantitative descriptions which usually complicate the subject for persons with limited backgrounds in this area.

Each chapter includes definitions and explanations of common acoustical terms and concludes with a set of questions or problems wherever applicable. Although the book is slanted towards the musical applications of sound, the book would be invaluable to a teacher of one of the physical sciences.

Reviewed by Jerry Underfer  
University of Iowa, Iowa City

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