

The Evolving Coast (Scientific American Library)

Richard A. Davis



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A coastline can be a scene of dramatic confrontation or peaceful resolve as the water meets the land. In this strikingly illustrated volume, geologist Richard Davis explores the evolution, nature, and dynamics of all kinds of coastal systems-from rugged cliffs with crashing surf; to wide sandy beaches with gentle waves; to deltas, coastal bays, estuaries, lagoons, and barrier islands. Throughout, Davis focuses on the two major influences that shape a coastline's distinctive personality: tectonic plate movement within the earth and changes in sea level. He concludes by assessing the growing pressures that increased human and commercial activity are putting on natural coastal systems.

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