



# Planetary Geology: An Introduction (Second Edition)

*Claudio Vita-Finzi, Dominic Fortes*

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Recent planetary missions by NASA, the European Space Agency, and other national agencies have reaffirmed that the geological processes which are familiar from our studies of the Earth operate on many solid planets and satellites. Common threads link the internal structure, thermal evolution, and surface character of both rocky and icy worlds. Volcanoes, impact craters, ice caps, dunes, rift valleys, rivers, and oceans are features of extra-terrestrial worlds as diverse as Mercury and Titan. New data reveals that many of the supposedly inert planetary bodies were recently subject to earthquakes, landslides, and climate change, and that some of them display active volcanism. Moreover, our understanding of the very origins of the Solar System depends heavily on the composition of meteorites from Mars reaching the Earth and of rock fragments found on the Moon. Planetary Geology provides the student reader and enthusiastic amateur with comprehensive coverage of the solar system viewed through the eyes of Earth scientists. Combining extensive use of imagery, the results of laboratory experiments, and theoretical modeling, this comprehensively updated second edition presents fresh evidence that planetary geology now embraces conventional geology and vice versa. A Teacher's Pack is also available upon request. \*\*\* " . . . a much improved version of what was already a good book. The new text is some 20 percent longer . . . color illustrations have been dispersed throughout . . . and the information presented is brought right up to the minute with numerous injections of new scientific results from the many space missions that have been conducted since the first edition appeared. Recommended." - Choice, Vol. 51, No. 07, March 2014 [Subject: Planetary Geology, Astronomy]

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