



- **Publisher:** Boyds Mills Press
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1590783263
- **Reading level:** Ages 4-8

Mountains: The Tops of the World

Charlotte M. Krall - Children's Literature

This title begins by going back two-hundred million years ago naming the forming layers of earth, layer by layer, until we reach today's ever-changing earth topography. The text is beautifully illustrated and easy to follow with questions readers may have answered by an adult. This nonfiction book would be a great resource for a classroom or library to aid in understanding the earth's composition. Although the publishers recommend a five- to eight-year reading level, it seems more appropriate for an older child. Younger children who are gifted, a child interested in earth science, or a student who needs a book report or reference for geography may appreciate this book. 2005, Boyds Mill Press, Ages 8 to 12.

School Library Journal

Gr 1-3-Beginning with the question of how a fish can wind up on a mountaintop, this picture book explores such concepts as sedimentation, plate tectonics, and the changing face of the planet. Lush, full-color artwork lends a fantasy aspect to serious scientific information. However, some of the concepts may be too difficult to understand without adult explanations. "Some plates collide, and one is forced under the other. The bottom edge slides into the mantle, where it melts and is called magma." Although accompanied by labeled illustrations, this is still a highly difficult idea for children to conceptualize. With help, their interest may be piqued enough for them to ask questions.-Eva Elisabeth VonAncken, Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling, NY Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Kirkus Reviews

How does the fossil of an ocean fish end up on a mountaintop? This question, posed only on the jacket flap, is answered by this simplified description of basic geological processes, introducing plate tectonics, mountain building, erosion and the formation of sedimentary rocks and making the point that mountains don't last forever. The smooth text is broken up into short phrases and vocabulary is defined in context, but the intended audience will struggle with words like "sedimentary" and "tectonic." Harrison concludes with an author's note directed at an older reader whose help may well be needed. Clean and colorful, the stylized illustrations give an almost three-dimensional look to each double-page spread. They support and amplify the text, except for the page showing men riding horses on a dry Western landscape while the words describe people hiking and fishing in the woods (as shown on the cover). Like others in the Earthworks series, suggestions for further reading are similar topic books; there is no glossary or index. An attractive introduction. (Picture book/nonfiction. 6-8)

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!!!! Must Read

MOUNTAINS: The Tops of the World. By Christopher Award-winning children's author David L. Harrison (Connecting Dots), Springfield, MO. 65 titles. Illustrated by Florida artist Cheryl Nathan, book designer and illustrator. Geology/Earth History: "Earthworks" series – Tectonic plates; Volcanoes; Digital images illustrate introductory text on Pangaea's breakup, the formation of continents, and the rise of mountains.