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Autore	Stevenson David S. <1968->
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Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Chapter 1 – Our Planet's Torrid Heart -- Chapter 2: The Formation of Granite -- Chapter 3: The Evolution of Modern Continents -- Chapter 4: Plate Tectonics, Planetary Magnetism and Life -- Chapter 5: Jotunheim: In The Realm of Giants -- Chapter 6: Mountains, Atmosphere and Long-Term Habitability -- Chapter 7: Our Island Earth: Granite Here, Granite Everywhere? -- Conclusions -- References -- Glossary -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In this book, David Stevenson offers us a look at the evolution of planets as they move from balls of mixed molten rock to vibrant worlds capable of hosting life. Embedded in our everyday architecture and in the literal ground beneath our feet, granite and its kin lie at the heart of many features of the Earth that we take for granted. From volcanism and mountain building to shifting water levels and local weather patterns, these rocks are closely intertwined with the complex

processes that continue to shape and reshape our world. This book serves as a wonderful primer for anybody interested in our planet's geological past and that of other planets in our Solar System and beyond. It illustrates not only how our planet's surface evolved, but also how granite played a pivotal role in the creation of complex, intelligent life on Earth. There has long been a missing element in popular astronomy, which Stevenson now aims to fill: how geological and biological evolution work in a complex partnership, and what our planet's own diversity can teach us about other rocky worlds.