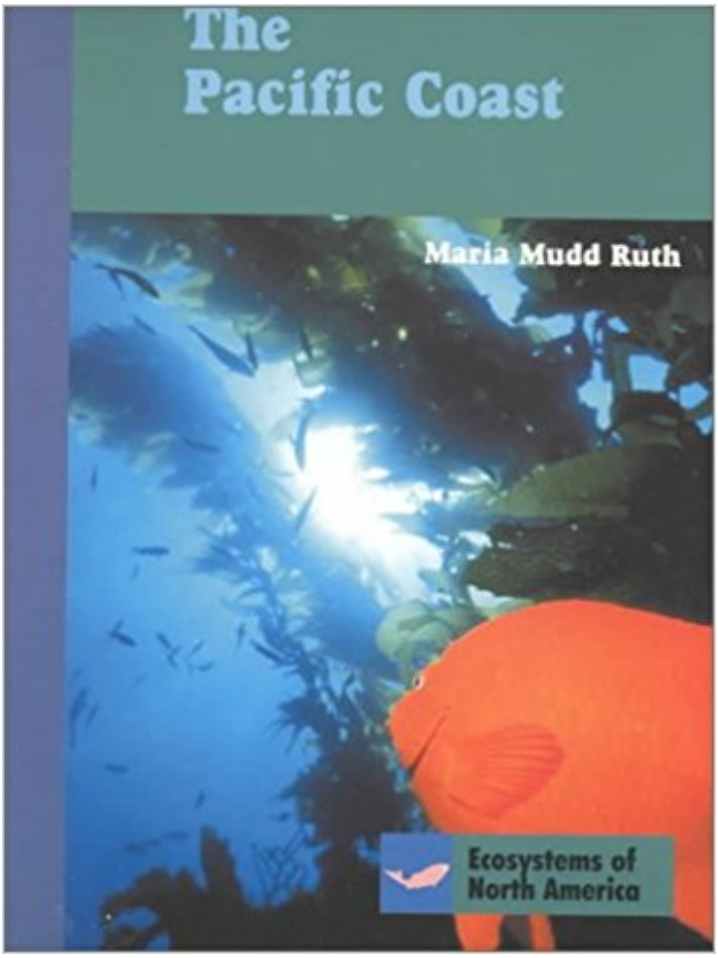
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The Pacific Coast (Ecosystems Of North America)



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Synopsis

This informative series explores the delicate balance of life in all the major continental ecosystems. The vital importance, stunning diversity and fascinating adaptability found in each area -- along with the urgency now felt to protect them -- are all explored, giving the reader an excellent introduction to the science of ecology. The text is written in an engaging manner that helps illuminate the vast complexities of the ecosystems featured. Stunning photographs support the lively text, which also includes home experiments that demonstrate certain conditions found within each ecosystem. An in-depth glossary, index, bibliography and a guide to additional sources make these titles a valuable resource for anyone interested in ecology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-These volumes provide well-organized and interesting introductions to three important North American ecosystems. In each case, the author describes a variety of plants and animals and considers their relationships with one another as well as their interactions with the environment. After establishing the range and basic characteristics of the North American rain forest, Behler organizes her investigation of the ecosystem by discussing the layers from upper canopy to forest floor. The human impact, particularly logging, is featured as a change agent. From beaver dams to human levees, the course of The Mississippi River is altered continually. Some of those changes

contribute to disastrous floods such as the one in 1993. Ruth describes restoration efforts as well, making it clear that human decisions and actions impact an ecosystem. The Pacific Coast is the least unified, perhaps due to the vast distance and variety of flora and fauna included. Individual chapters devoted to the kelp forest and salmon run hold readers' interest but don't relate closely to one another. Each book provides suggestions for a couple of related class activities. Full-color photos enhance and reinforce the text. Previous knowledge of the topic is not essential, but competent reading skills are. In addition to serving as good sources for reports, the books are engaging enough to recommend for general-interest reading.Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"well-organized and interesting introductions to three important North American ecosystems....engaging enough to recommend for general-interest reading." -- School Library Journal, April 2001

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