



Evolve or Die; Odious Oceans; Violent Volcanoes

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The success of the 'Horrible' approach depends foursquare upon the ability of the author who is providing it and that author's ability to present the subject syllabus in a new light. This is why Terry Deary's Horrible Histories have done so well, Deary having served a long apprenticeship as a storyteller before emerging as the '90s' favourite historian. So names like Gates and Ganeri - familiar to all traffickers in information books - betoken confidence. And we are not disappointed. Gates does a thoroughly entertaining and competent job on evolution and cautions us repeatedly about trying to interfere with its progress. His writing possesses, naturally, the necessary attributes for a contributor to this series as he helps us absorb a wealth of good stuff.

Ganeri's geographical ventures represent a definite step forward for this respected writer. **Volcanoes** is a far easier brief than **Oceans** and whereas in the latter, the author's narrative craft tends to wallow a bit and steer a sometimes uncertain course, **Volcanoes** progresses through its subject very satisfyingly and provides a good end-to-end read.

Customers buying these on the reputation of previous 'Horrible' ventures will not be let down.

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