For as long as there have been civilizations, there has been the urge to venture outside of them, either in search of other civilizations or in search of novelty. But what accounts for this exploration urge? Exploration: A Very Short Introduction surveys this quintessential human impulse, tracing it from pre-history to the present, from east to west around the globe, and from the depths of volcanoes to the expanses of space. It arranges the history of world explorations into thematic chapters, each of which isolates the distinctive qualities and characteristics of exploration in a particular era, period, or place.