



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

If you only need the buying answer, 180-day digital access is still the cheapest route and semester rental is essentially tied with the current Merybook print listing. That makes this a true split case: print is reasonable if you want an annotated geography text to keep, but it is not the automatic budget winner.

Current price comparison

Format / Seller	Price	Link
Print from Merybook	\$86.89	Check price
eCampus used print	\$174.99	Check price
eCampus semester rental	\$84.99	Check price
eCampus digital, 180 days	\$59.94	Check price
eCampus digital, 1825 days	\$113.99	Check price

The pricing makes the decision more about study style than about one obviously superior number. Digital access clearly wins on short-term cost. Rental is almost tied with the current print listing. So the reason to buy print has to come from how you learn: whether you want to mark maps, diagrams, and process explanations in a copy you can keep.

What this book actually teaches

McKnight's Physical Geography is useful because physical geography asks students to connect maps, landforms, climate, water systems, and environmental processes rather than memorize disconnected facts. A strong geography text trains the eye as much as the memory.

That is why format matters more here than in a purely text-based subject. Students often move back and forth between photos, maps, cross-sections, and explanations. A print copy supports visual comparison well, but a shorter digital path can also work if

the course is strictly one-term and the student is comfortable studying on screen.

Who should buy print and who should not

Buy print if you learn by marking maps and diagrams and expect geography or environmental science to come back later. The current print listing is close enough to rental to make ownership reasonable.

Choose digital only if your goal is the lowest one-term cost and you do not expect to keep using the book after the class ends. That is still the cleaner short-term route.

Sources checked

- Merybook product listing for ISBN 9780135827147
- eCampus pricing snapshots for used print, semester rental, and digital access terms
- Pricing reviewed on April 19, 2026