



Fig. 17.11 Milankovitch cycles are a product of variations in the Earth's orbital behavior. (a) Orbital elements include eccentricity, precession, and tilt (from F. Press & R. Siever, 1998, *Understanding Earth*. New York: Freeman). (b) The cyclicity of orbital variations is responsible for the intensity of the seasons and is linked to climatic changes (from T. E. Graedel & P. F. Crutzen, 1993, *Atmospheric Change*. New York: Freeman).