

Surf Soup® Goes to the LA Olympics Surfing to Trestles  
Subtitle: A Surfing Story About Dreams, Teamwork, and the Journey Beyond Winning  
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Surf Soup® Goes to the LA Olympics: Teacher/Parent Note  
Dear Teachers, Parents, and Caregivers,  
This guide is designed to help you use Surf Soup® Goes to the LA Olympics as a learning and discussion tool for children ages 6-9. Beyond a fun surfing adventure, the story introduces perseverance, patience, teamwork, and goal-setting.

Inside this guide, you'll find:

Discussion Questions to spark comprehension, critical thinking, and reflection

Activities to engage kids in geography, mini wave experiments, and Olympic-themed challenges

SEL Connections to help children explore empathy, resilience, and celebrating effort

These activities are flexible—adapt them for classrooms, small groups, homeschool, or family reading time. The goal is to encourage curiosity, conversation, and learning through the story while having fun!

Enjoy exploring the waves, supporting Koa, and sharing in the joy of the journey.

— Donna, Surf Soup® Creator

Join Koa as he rides the waves to the LA Olympics at Trestles! A story about perseverance, friendship, and fun on and off the surfboard. Perfect for young readers, classrooms, and surfing enthusiasts.

Koa dreams of competing at the LA Olympics, but becoming an alternate shows him that winning isn't everything. From

Surf Soup® Island to Trestles, this heartwarming story teaches perseverance, teamwork, and the joy of the journey. Includes an Olympic Surfing Guide, discussion questions, and interactive activities for teachers, parents, and caregivers.

Surf Soup® Goes to the LA Olympics: Surfing to Trestles Enhanced Reader/Teacher Guide

Grade Level: K-4 (ages 6-9)

Subject Areas: PE, Social-Emotional Learning, Geography, Reading Comprehension

Discussion Questions:

Why do you think Koa felt disappointed when he didn't make the main team?

How do friends help each other when someone is an alternate?

What lessons can you learn from Koa about patience and perseverance?

How does the story show that winning isn't the only important thing?

How might you prepare for a challenge you really want to succeed in?

Activities:

Map the Waves: Locate Trestles on a map and mark other famous surf spots around the world.

Mini Wave Experiment: Use a water tray or pool to create small waves and test how objects float and move.

Story Reflection: Have students draw or write about a time they had to wait for their opportunity and what they learned.

Olympic Surfing Scoreboard: Create a mini scoreboard where kids judge each other's "surf moves" on mats or balance boards.

Friendship Surf Journal: Record ways classmates can encourage and support each other like Koa's friends do.

SEL Connections:

Growth mindset: embracing challenges and learning from experience

Empathy: understanding what it feels like to be an alternate or in someone's shoes

Teamwork: celebrating friends' successes as well as your own

Back Matter: Olympic Surfing Guide

Rules of the Sport: Judges evaluate commitment, control, and creativity

Trestles Surf Spot: Famous California location for long rides and perfect waves

Big Feelings Guide: Strategies for handling disappointment, supporting teammates, and celebrating effort