

Reader Guide

Title

Surf Soup and the Ocean's Water Waves

Subtitle

STEM Adventure for Curious Kids

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Donna Kay Lau Studios-Art is On! In ProDUCKtions Ink

Website: <https://Surfsoup.tv>

Big Ideas

Observation • Ocean science • Curiosity • Energy in motion

Before Reading

Ask students:

What makes waves move?

Have you ever watched waves for a long time?

What patterns do you notice in water?

After Reading Discussion

Why did Koa listen to the wave?

What did he learn by watching instead of rushing?

How do waves carry energy across the ocean?

What other things in nature move in patterns?

STEAM Activities

Science – Wave Motion Experiment

Fill a clear container with water.

Students gently move their hand at one end.

Observe:

Ripples moving outward

Energy traveling through water

Discuss how wind creates waves in the ocean.

Technology – Wave Observation Video

Watch a short ocean wave clip.

Students identify:

rising water

crest

breaking wave

Students describe what they see.

Engineering – Build a Wave Maker

Use:

shallow pan

water

small fan or cardboard

Test how wind strength changes wave size.

Art – Ocean Pattern Painting

Students paint repeating wave shapes using blue tones.

Encourage:

rhythm

pattern

movement

Math – Counting Waves

Students watch a video of waves and count:

waves in 30 seconds

waves in 1 minute

Compare results.

Reflection

How does watching nature help us feel calm?

Students write or draw their answer.

Dive into Surf Soup® with Koa!

This guide brings the story to life with STEM, ocean science, and mindfulness activities for young learners.

Discussion Questions

What causes waves to move across the ocean?

How does the wind affect wave size and speed?

Why do waves curl near the shore?

How is energy traveling through water different from the water itself moving?

How does Koa notice and interact with the waves?

Hands-On Activities / Experiments

Tiny Wave Experiment: Fill a bowl with water. Blow gently across the surface. Observe how small waves form.

Observation Walk: Visit a beach, lake, or stream. Look for small waves, currents, and ripples. Sketch what you see.

Wave Illustration: Draw a wave's journey from formation to shore, labeling the energy movement.

Mindfulness & Reflection

Pause while reading and notice: "If you were a wave, how would you move?"

Discuss how waves can be gentle, playful, or powerful—just like our feelings.

Learning Objectives

Introduce STEM concepts: energy transfer, motion, wind, and water

Encourage observation skills and critical thinking

Promote mindfulness and emotional awareness through story-based reflection