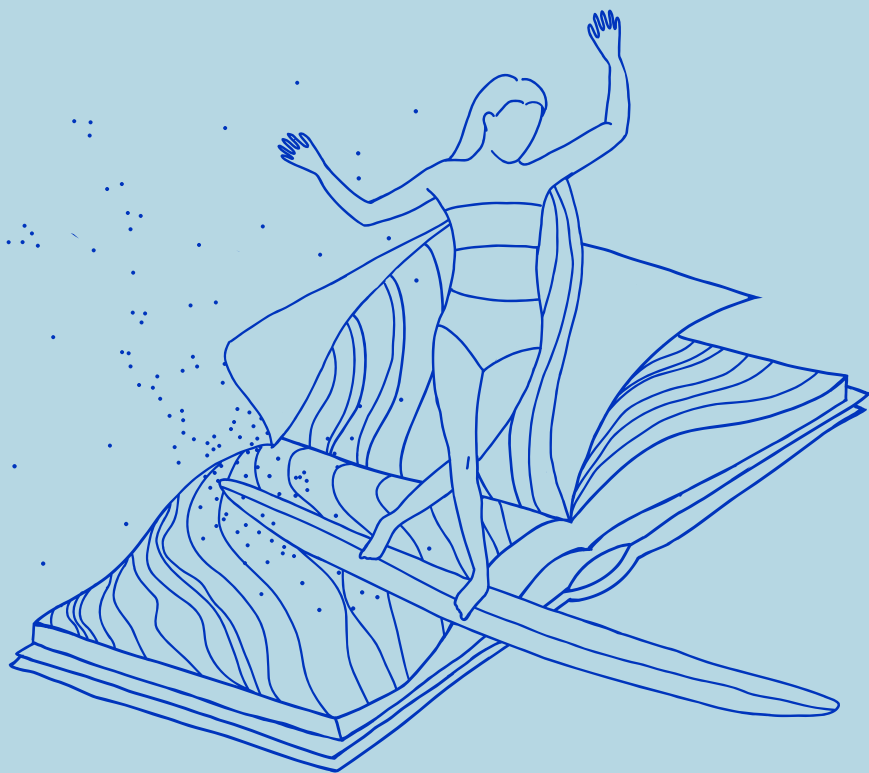


Ocean Literacy.

The 7 Principles



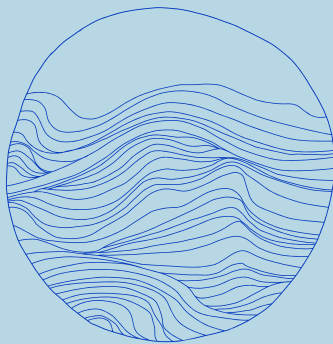
Are You an Ocean Literate Surfer?

The Ocean Literacy framework serves as 7 basic principles and 44 fundamental concepts which explain our influence on the ocean and the ocean's influence on us.

As surfers we are well aware of our intrinsic connection to the ocean; it is how we feel stoked! We are also exposed, first hand, to environmental changes which could help inform ocean science and policy to employ protection measures. It is both our playground and our sanctuary; which our health and happiness depends upon. The connection runs deep.

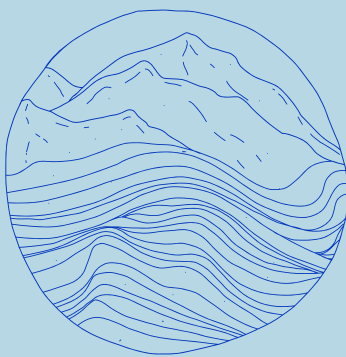
1 The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

Our Blue Planet is 70% water and the ocean contains 97% of our planet's water. This water moves around due to the hydrosphere but also interacts with other Earth systems such as the cryosphere (ice cycle), geosphere (rock cycle), pedosphere (soil cycle), lithosphere (tectonic plates), atmosphere (gas cycle) and biosphere (whole Earth System). We utilise different features by surfing a variation of breaking waves; sandbars or beaches; reefs or points.



2 The ocean and ocean life shape features of the Earth.

We came from the sea; and so did the land. We still see the effects of this today, particularly whilst surfing waves off volcanic islands or breaking over coral reef.



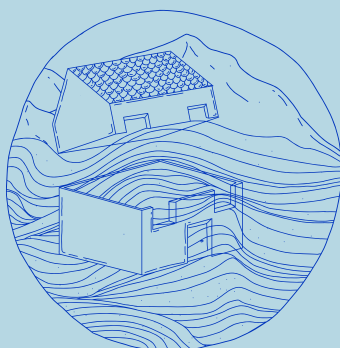
3 The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.

And with the climate crisis in motion, we will now start to experience extreme weather patterns, affecting our surf season and breaks.



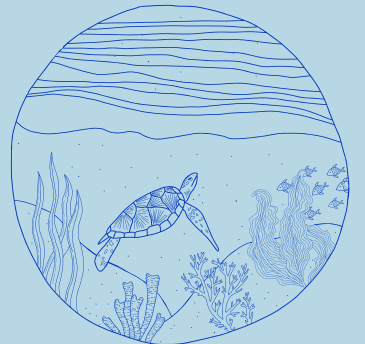
4 The ocean made the Earth habitable.

But it could soon make certain places uninhabitable, due to a rise in sea level. Many low lying islands such as the Maldives, who also boast world class waves, are at risk



5 The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

Surfers are exposed to an array of marine life, from phytoplankton to whales. Observing marine species in their natural habitat is one of the unique aspects of surfing, and finding ways to peacefully coexist with them is a learning journey but one all surfers should aim to strive for - it's their home, after all.



6 The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

The principles that surfers embody. Without ocean waves there would be no surfers. Research has shown that despite having many physical benefits, the biggest motivation for surfing is: "connection to the ocean".



7 The ocean is largely unexplored.

Which is why we need to learn a lot more about it. The UN have dedicated the following 10 years to ocean science and research. The next step from being literate in ocean processes is collecting data to monitor for changes; or to create change. Spending time in the ocean as a surfer could result in vital knowledge, and by sharing with science and policy, help protect marine environments.



By supporting each other to learn and report about the science of surf breaks the global surf community can truly make a difference; not only inspiring ocean literacy but an ocean of change.

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