



## **Lesson Two:** **We Speak Ocean**

### Learning objective

Increase ocean literacy in students' local community, through active conversation

### Age Group

5-7, 7-11 and 11+

### Materials required

Materials that will help students create a presentation (digital or analogue)

### Activity: 30 mins

One of the best ways to protect our ocean is to ensure we're having meaningful conversations about it with friends, classmates, and family. When we talk about an issue that is important to us, it helps engage those around us.

WAVES (Wisdom, Awe & Wonder, Viewpoint, Experience, and Story) is an easy way to remember five important tips for sparking good conversations about our ocean. The WAVES model (see visual in this packet) is inspired by waves' journey from their genesis in the deep sea to their final moments breaking on the shores.

During this lesson you'll share the WAVES model with your students, then practice by having conversations about your local Blue Space.

The goal is to create a presentation about your local Blue Space using all five points from the WAVES model.

If you haven't already, start by identifying a local Blue Space. It can be any naturally formed blue environment like a lake, stream, or river. It doesn't need to be an ocean viewed from a beach.





## The 5 points in the WAVES model:

### Wisdom

- What traditional knowledge can we draw from?
- Who are our elders and what can we learn from them?
- Can you find out who has traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) about your local blue space? TEK describes knowledge systems embedded in the cultural traditions of regional, indigenous or local communities. For example, at the coast it may be local fishers.

### Awe & Wonder

- Often when we talk about protecting the ocean the conversation is pessimistic, which can make people disengage. The feeling of awe and wonder, however, has been linked to developing a better sense of environmental stewardship. How can we use awe, wonder, and curiosity to engage with your Blue Space in a more optimistic way?
- Talk about conservation work that has been successful, or extraordinary animals or plants that can be found there.

### Viewpoint

- Who are we speaking to, and what is their view of the world? Understanding our audience is vital. It helps us shape a conversation and ensure that it feels relevant.
- If the students are talking to their classmates, what are some specific things to include in your presentation that might be really interesting to them?

### Experience

- What can you do to make your presentation experiential? We connect through shared experiences, and we remember those moments more than simple conversations.
- Maybe you can show a video or photos, or share an audio recording.
- If there is a "show and tell" element, please don't remove anything from the marine environment for the sake of the presentation.

### Story

- Stories shape how we think, feel and act every day. What stories can you share of your local blue space?





Age group suggestions:

### Younger students

Pick one of the five parts of the WAVES model. Try having a conversation about the ocean using that element. For example pick "S" for story. Can you tell a story about your Blue Space?

### Older students

Explore opportunities to share your presentation in your community. Is there an upcoming event that you could speak at?



