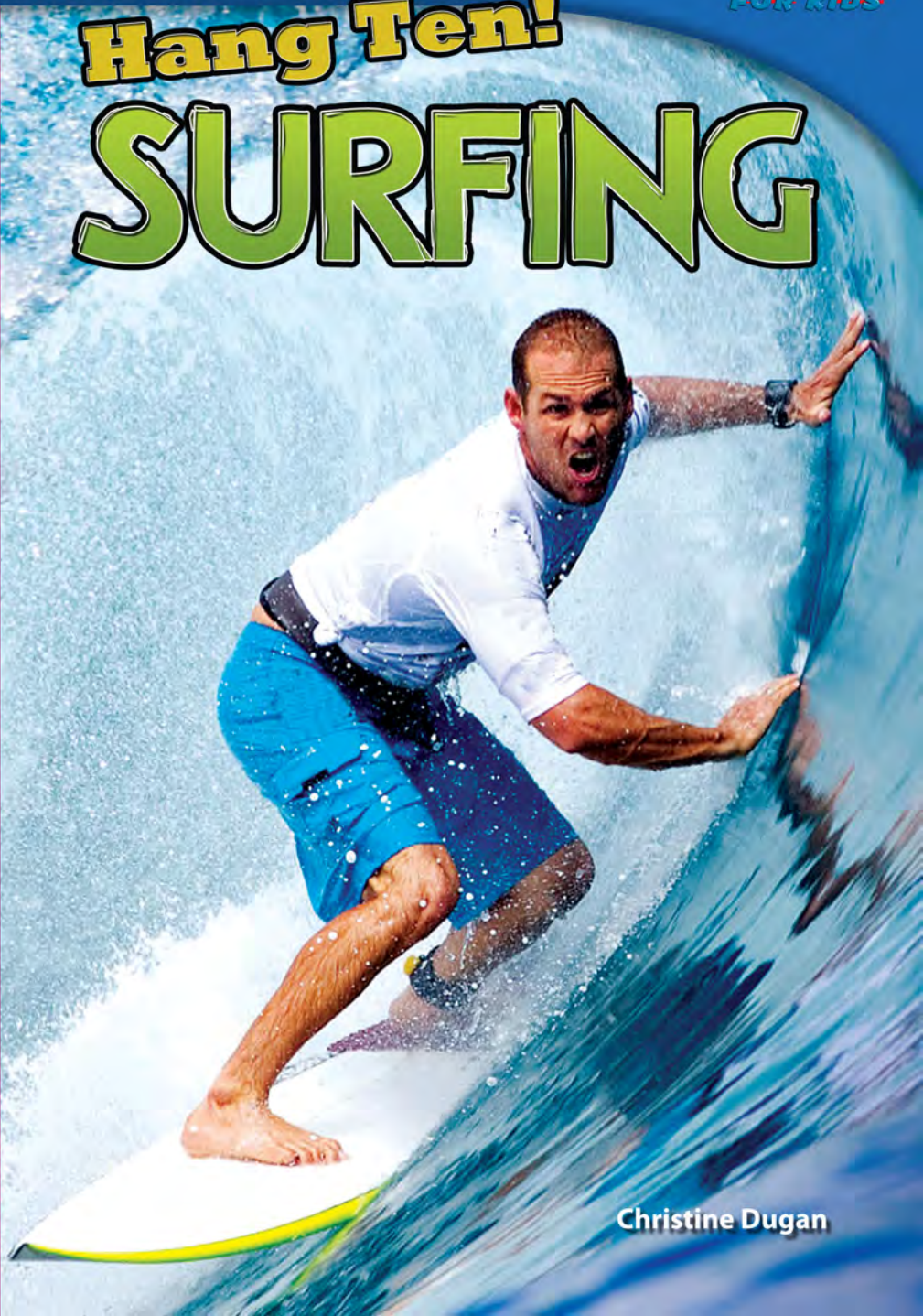
TIME FOR KIDS

Hang Ten!

SURFING



Christine Dugan

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Consultant

Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D.
Kent State University

Lori Oczkus
Literacy Consultant

Mike Featherston
Surfer

Publishing Credits
Dona Herweck Rice, *Editor-in-Chief*
Lee Aucoin, *Creative Director*
Jamey Acosta, *Senior Editor*
Lexa Hoang, *Designer*
Stephanie Reid, *Photo Editor*
Emily Engle, *Contributing Author*
Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*

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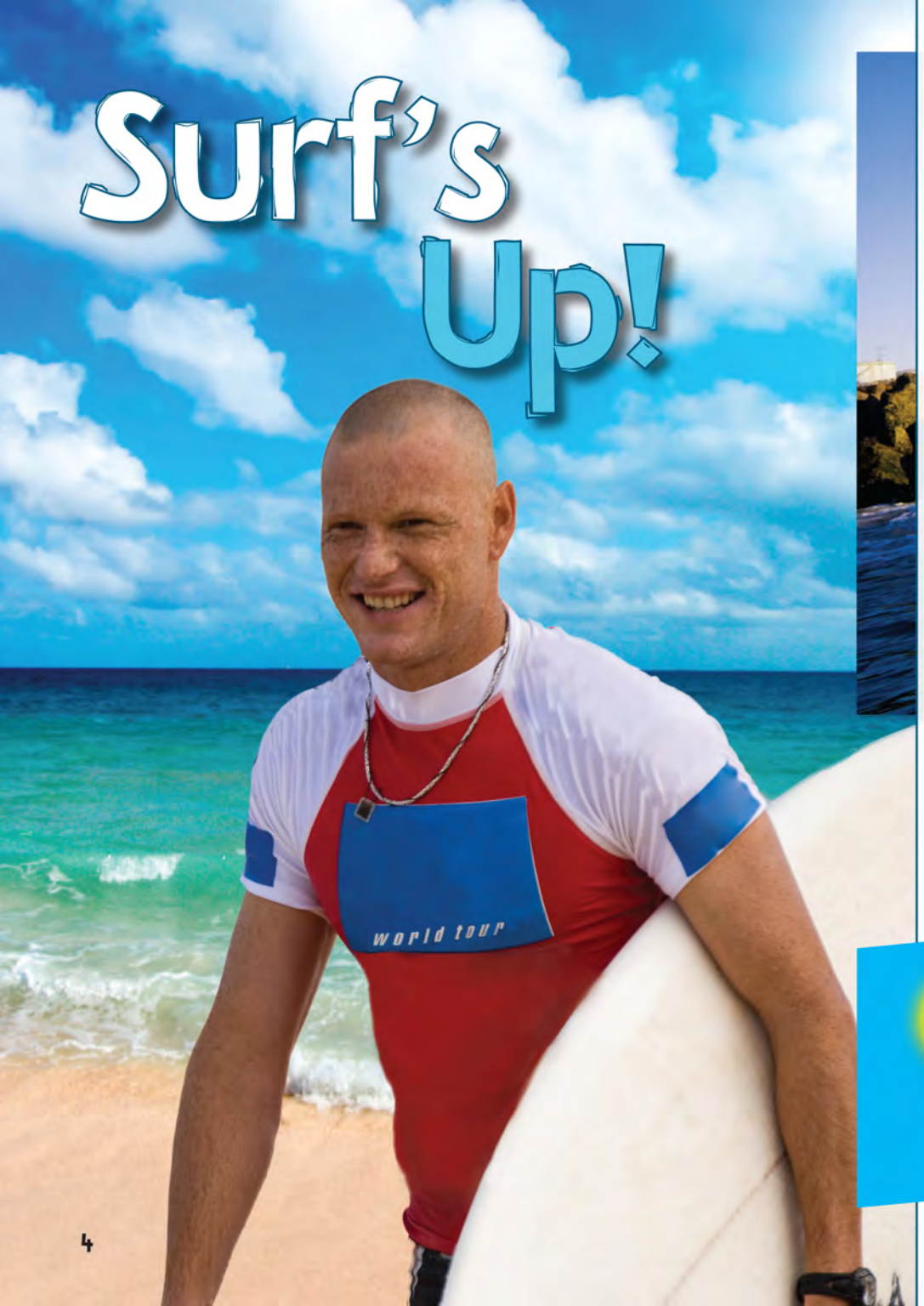
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Table of Contents

Surf's Up! 4
Keepin' It Real 14
Going Global. 22
Wipeout! 32
Maximum Adrenaline 38
Glossary 42
Index 44
Bibliography 46
More to Explore 47
About the Author. 48

Surf's Up!



A surfer paddles a surfboard out on the open ocean. Gentle waves pass by. The surfer sits and waits. Finally, the surfer catches a wave and rides toward the shore. This is the moment a surfer waits for and dreams about at night. This is what the sport of surfing is all about. Surfers never know what kinds of waves they will get to ride. The **unpredictability** is part of the fun.



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Think you're ready to try surfing? Here's what you'll need to know:

- how to keep it real with safe surf skills
- where to find the hottest surf spots around the world
- how math can help you prevent a total wipeout and maximize adrenaline

Accepting the Challenge

Surfers use a few special items to go out on the open water. Of course, a board is the most essential piece of gear. Surfboards come in a variety of lengths. They can be made from different kinds of materials. Today's most popular boards are made mostly from a dense foam material.

Surfers in colder climates need to wear a **wet suit**. This tight-fitting suit protects them from cold water and keeps them warm. Some surfers also wear boots, hoods, and gloves to stay warm in the water. The warmer a surfer dresses, the longer he or she can surf. In warmer places, surfers only need to wear a swimsuit. Before heading out, surfers apply wax to the top of their surfboards. The wax helps prevent surfers from slipping off the board.



Extreme Designs

Today's surfboards are high-tech, high-performance boards. They are usually made of **polyurethane** (pol-ee-YOOR-uh-theyn) foam and then covered with a **fiberglass** cloth. Surfers love to check out the latest designs and find new ways to catch the next awesome wave.

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Wet suits come in a variety of lengths and materials.



Far Out Fins

Glass-on Fin
These fins are attached to a surfboard with fiberglass.

Removable Fin
These fins unscrew from a board and can be changed or replaced.

Flexible Fin
This soft, flexible fin is safer because it will not cut a surfer if he or she falls off the board.



The Perfect Wave

Surfers usually have a **strategy** for getting started in the water. It takes time to observe and predict waves. Surfers must learn to think ahead about how they will ride an approaching wave. Sometimes, they stand on the beach and just watch the ocean before they get in it.

A surfer first paddles out to a surf spot. Then, it is time to sit on the board and wait for a wave. A surfer starts riding a wave by pointing the nose of the board at the beach and then paddling to try to match the speed of the wave. Then, the surfer stands up. The rush of the wave moves the board forward. The surfer tries to stay standing for as long as possible in order to keep the ride going. Surfers may catch a dozen waves in a two-hour session.

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Daring Rescues

About 80 percent of all water rescues on beaches are related to rip currents. If 1 beach has 220 rescues in 1 year, how many of those rescues would be related to rip currents?

Dangerous Rip Currents

Surfers need to watch out for dangerous currents near the waves. A **rip current,** often called a *riptide,* is a strong channel of water. It can drag people away from the beach. Surfers or swimmers should swim **parallel** to the beach to get out of the rip current.

