Draw a Realistic Ocean Wave: Crest, Foam and Curl Construction

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Construct a rightward-breaking wave on a 15 cm wide area. The crest rises 6 cm from left to right. The curl axis hooks back 4 cm over the face. The lip tapers from 8 mm at the base to 2 mm at the tip. Place three foam zones: crest line, lip base band, and two hollow patches.

Answer: Draw the crest line rising 6 cm across 15 cm. From the highest point, draw the curl axis hooking 4 cm back over the face. Offset the outside lip edge by 8 mm at the base and 2 mm at the tip. Draw the inside edge 1–2 mm shorter at the tip. Add a thin crest foam line, a thicker band at the lip base, and two elongated patches inside the hollow aligned with the curl. Shade the hollow darkest and keep the lip's outside edge light.