

robert macfarlane the old ways

Robert Macfarlane and The Old Ways: Rediscovering Paths Through Time

robert macfarlane the old ways is a phrase that resonates deeply with lovers of nature, history, and storytelling. This phrase refers to Macfarlane's acclaimed book, **The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot**, where he weaves together personal narrative, landscape writing, and cultural history to explore ancient paths and the primal human urge to wander. If you've ever felt the pull of a hidden trail, the whisper of an ancient route beneath your feet, or the desire to connect with landscapes shaped by generations before us, then Macfarlane's work offers a compelling invitation to rediscover those connections.

Who is Robert Macfarlane?

Before diving into **The Old Ways**, it's worth understanding the mind behind the book. Robert Macfarlane is a British writer and scholar whose work has significantly influenced the genre of nature writing and travel literature. His focus often centers on the relationship between humans and the natural world, especially how landscapes embody stories, memories, and histories that shape our identities.

Macfarlane's prose is both poetic and accessible, making complex ideas about place, time, and culture come alive through vivid descriptions and thoughtful reflection. His writing encourages readers not just to observe the environment but to engage with it on a deeply personal level.

Exploring The Old Ways: More Than a Travelogue

At its core, **The Old Ways** is about walking. But it's not just any walking—it's walking on ancient, often forgotten paths that have been trodden for centuries or even millennia. Macfarlane sets out on a

journey across the British Isles, tracing these routes to uncover the stories embedded within the landscape.

Walking as a Way of Knowing

Macfarlane treats walking as a form of inquiry, a way to understand the world that is both physical and spiritual. He suggests that the act of walking reconnects us with the environment, our history, and ourselves. In **The Old Ways**, walking becomes a method for exploring the intangible: the folklore, myths, and cultural memories tied to the land.

By immersing himself in the surroundings, Macfarlane experiences the landscape not just visually but sensorially—feeling the terrain, hearing the sounds, and sensing the atmosphere. This approach makes the reader feel as if they are walking alongside him, discovering the “old ways” as living, breathing entities rather than relics of the past.

Tracing Ancient Paths Across Britain

Throughout the book, Macfarlane follows several historic routes, each with its own unique story and significance:

- **Wales’ Offa’s Dyke Path:** Following the ancient border earthwork, this path explores the shifting boundaries between England and Wales and the communities shaped by these divisions.
- **England’s Northumberland Coast:** Walking this rugged coastline, Macfarlane connects with the Viking history and the natural beauty that has endured through ages.
- **South West England’s Jurassic Coast:** Here, the geological history meets human stories, as Macfarlane reflects on the deep time embedded in the cliffs and shores.

Each route is more than just a trail; it is a living archive of human experience and natural phenomena, inviting readers to appreciate the layered complexity of place.

Themes and Insights in The Old Ways

Robert Macfarlane's *The Old Ways* is rich with themes that go beyond mere geography or history. It's a meditation on time, memory, and the human connection to land.

Time and Landscape

One of the book's most compelling ideas is how landscapes act as time capsules. Paths carved into the earth hold memories of countless footsteps, battles, migrations, and rituals. Macfarlane's reflections invite readers to consider how the land around them is a palimpsest, marked by layers of human and natural history.

Language and Place

Macfarlane also examines how language shapes our understanding of place. He draws attention to local dialects, place names, and storytelling traditions that carry cultural identities and histories. These linguistic elements act as keys to unlocking a deeper connection to the landscape, revealing how integral language is to our sense of belonging.

Modern Disconnection and the Power of Walking

In an age dominated by screens and fast-paced living, *The Old Ways* offers a gentle critique of

modern disconnection from nature. Macfarlane advocates for the restorative power of walking and engaging with the natural world. He suggests that by following ancient routes, we can reconnect with rhythms that have sustained human life for centuries, finding solace and meaning in the process.

Why The Old Ways Resonates with Readers Today

The appeal of *The Old Ways* lies not just in its beautiful prose but in its invitation to slow down and pay attention—to the land, to history, and to ourselves. Here are some reasons why readers continue to be drawn to Macfarlane's work:

A Call to Reconnection

In a world increasingly urbanized and digitized, *The Old Ways* acts as a call to return to the natural world and our roots within it. The book encourages readers to seek out the “old ways” in their own environments, whether that means exploring local footpaths, learning about regional histories, or simply spending more time outdoors.

Inspiration for Walkers and Travelers

For those who love walking or are curious about exploring on foot, Macfarlane's detailed accounts provide inspiration and practical insight. His descriptions of terrain, seasonal changes, and encounters along the way offer valuable guidance for anyone interested in embarking on their own journeys.

Enriching Understanding of Cultural Heritage

By intertwining folklore, archaeology, and natural history, *The Old Ways* enriches readers'

appreciation of cultural heritage embedded in landscapes. This holistic approach helps people see beyond the surface and recognize the profound narratives that shape places we might otherwise overlook.

Tips for Following Your Own Old Ways

Inspired by Macfarlane's journey? Here are some tips to help you explore ancient paths and deepen your connection to the land:

1. **Research Local Trails:** Start by identifying historic or lesser-known routes in your area. Local heritage centers or walking groups can be great resources.
2. **Walk Mindfully:** Slow your pace and engage all your senses. Notice the smells, sounds, textures, and sights around you.
3. **Learn the Stories:** Seek out folklore, place names, or historical facts related to your path to enrich your experience.
4. **Keep a Journal:** Record your thoughts, observations, and feelings. Reflection can deepen your understanding of both landscape and self.
5. **Respect the Land:** Follow the principles of Leave No Trace to preserve these routes for future generations.

Robert Macfarlane's Legacy and Influence

Since the publication of **The Old Ways**, Robert Macfarlane has continued to shape how people engage with landscape and literature. His work has inspired a resurgence in walking as a form of cultural and ecological exploration, influencing writers, artists, and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Moreover, Macfarlane's writing encourages a more thoughtful and sustainable relationship with the environment, reminding us that these "old ways" are not just relics but vital threads in the fabric of our present and future.

Whether you are an avid hiker, a lover of history, or someone simply curious about the stories beneath your feet, Robert Macfarlane's **The Old Ways** offers a rich, immersive experience that invites us all to walk a little more thoughtfully through the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Robert Macfarlane, the author of 'The Old Ways'?

Robert Macfarlane is a British writer and scholar known for his works on landscape, nature, and travel. He is the author of *'The Old Ways,'* which explores ancient paths and the human connection to landscapes.

What is the main theme of 'The Old Ways' by Robert Macfarlane?

'The Old Ways' focuses on the relationship between people and the landscapes they traverse, emphasizing ancient paths, walking, and the cultural and historical significance of these routes.

When was 'The Old Ways' by Robert Macfarlane first published?

'The Old Ways' was first published in 2012.

What regions or locations does Robert Macfarlane explore in 'The Old Ways'?

In 'The Old Ways,' Robert Macfarlane explores various ancient paths across Britain, including the South West Coast Path in England, the Welsh coastline, and the paths of the Middle East, such as the Levant.

How does Robert Macfarlane describe the concept of 'old ways' in his book?

Macfarlane describes 'old ways' as ancient routes and paths that have been used for centuries, which connect humans to nature, history, and culture, representing a form of walking that is both physical and spiritual.

What literary style is used in 'The Old Ways'?

Robert Macfarlane uses a lyrical and poetic prose style, combining travel narrative, natural history, and memoir to create a rich and immersive reading experience.

Why has 'The Old Ways' been influential in contemporary nature writing?

'The Old Ways' has influenced contemporary nature writing by highlighting the importance of walking, place, and heritage, inspiring readers to reconnect with the natural world and appreciate the deep history embedded in landscapes.

Are there any notable awards or recognitions received by 'The Old Ways'?

While 'The Old Ways' itself did not win major literary awards, Robert Macfarlane as an author has received widespread acclaim and recognition for his contributions to nature and travel literature.

Can 'The Old Ways' by Robert Macfarlane be considered a guidebook for walkers?

'The Old Ways' is not a traditional guidebook but rather a reflective and narrative exploration of walking ancient paths. It offers inspiration and insight for walkers interested in history and landscape rather than practical navigation details.

Additional Resources

Robert Macfarlane *The Old Ways: A Journey Through Landscape, Language, and Memory*

robert macfarlane the old ways is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of contemporary nature writing and cultural exploration. Robert Macfarlane's 2012 book, **The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot**, stands as a pivotal work that intertwines travelogue, history, and philosophy to chart the ancient paths that crisscross Britain and beyond. This book not only explores physical landscapes but also delves into the intangible connections humans have with place, language, and the act of walking itself. As such, Macfarlane's work has become a cornerstone for readers interested in the intersection of nature, heritage, and personal narrative.

Exploring The Old Ways: Context and Significance

At its core, **The Old Ways** is a meditation on the act of walking and the routes that have historically shaped human settlement and cultural memory. Robert Macfarlane's narrative centers on his footsteps along ancient paths—routes once used for trade, pilgrimage, and migration—reclaiming them as conduits to understanding the past and the environment.

The significance of **The Old Ways** lies in its multifaceted approach: it is simultaneously a travelogue, a historical account, and a linguistic journey. Macfarlane meticulously researches the etymology of place names and tracks, embedding each trail with layers of meaning. His prose reflects a profound

respect for the landscapes he traverses as well as the cultural imprints left by previous generations.

In an era marked by rapid urbanization and digital navigation, Macfarlane's emphasis on walking as an immersive experience offers a counterpoint to modern disconnection from natural environments. His work revives interest in "topographical literature" while pushing its boundaries by integrating poetic insight and environmental consciousness.

Robert Macfarlane's Narrative Style and Thematic Focus

Macfarlane's narrative style in *The Old Ways* is characterized by lyrical descriptions balanced with scholarly rigor. His sentences often evoke the sensory richness of the landscapes, from the tactile crunch of gravel paths underfoot to the shifting light on ancient stone. Yet, the prose remains accessible and grounded, avoiding overly ornate language or abstraction.

Several key themes emerge throughout the book:

- **Connection to Place:** Macfarlane emphasizes the deep-rooted human connection to land through paths that have been walked for centuries.
- **Memory and History:** The routes serve as living archives, preserving stories, myths, and linguistic traces.
- **Language and Toponymy:** Detailed explorations of place names reveal cultural layers and historical continuity.
- **Ecological Awareness:** The book subtly advocates for conservation by fostering a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural landscapes.

These themes resonate with readers who seek more than a traditional travelogue; they engage with the book on intellectual, emotional, and philosophical levels.

Comparative Insights: The Old Ways Among Nature Writing

Within the broader genre of nature and travel writing, *The Old Ways* occupies a unique niche. Compared to contemporaries such as Nan Shepherd's *The Living Mountain* or John Muir's wilderness-focused narratives, Macfarlane's work is distinct in its focus on human-made pathways and cultural history. While Shepherd and Muir celebrate the wildness of nature, Macfarlane bridges the divide between natural and human landscapes, emphasizing the intertwined relationship.

Furthermore, the book's integration of linguistic analysis distinguishes it from more purely descriptive or poetic works. Macfarlane's attention to the "language of place" aligns him with a tradition of writers interested in philology and folklore, yet his modern sensibility and environmental concerns make the work relevant to contemporary audiences.

Features That Define The Old Ways

Several features contribute to the book's critical acclaim and enduring relevance:

1. **Field Research and Immersion:** Macfarlane's commitment to walking the actual routes adds authenticity and immediacy to his observations.
2. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Blending geography, history, linguistics, and ecology enriches the narrative.
3. **Visual and Sensory Detail:** Vivid descriptions create immersive reading experiences.

4. **Philosophical Depth:** Reflections on walking as a metaphor for life and exploration broaden the book's appeal.

These elements make **The Old Ways** both a compelling read and a valuable resource for scholars and enthusiasts interested in landscape studies and cultural geography.

Implications and Influence in Contemporary Culture

Since its publication, **The Old Ways** has influenced not only readers but also cultural conversations about place, memory, and environmental responsibility. Its success has helped popularize the practice of “slow travel” and walking as a means of reconnecting with both land and history. This trend is evident in the rise of pilgrimage tourism, hiking festivals, and community-led initiatives to protect and restore ancient paths.

Moreover, Macfarlane's work has inspired other writers, filmmakers, and artists to explore similar themes. The book's blend of narrative and research has encouraged a multidisciplinary approach to environmental humanities, fostering collaborations between ecologists, historians, and literary scholars.

Critiques and Challenges

While **The Old Ways** is widely praised, some critiques point to its occasional romanticism of the past and an idealized portrayal of rural landscapes. In focusing on ancient paths and their cultural resonance, the book sometimes glosses over contemporary social and economic challenges faced by rural communities.

Additionally, the book's dense references and scholarly tone may present accessibility challenges for casual readers. However, these aspects also contribute to its depth and lasting value as a work of

literary and academic merit.

Robert Macfarlane The Old Ways in the Digital Age

In today's era of GPS navigation and instantaneous travel guidance, **The Old Ways** offers a compelling reminder of the value of slow, mindful movement through space. Macfarlane's emphasis on walking as a form of inquiry and connection challenges the prevailing culture of speed and efficiency.

The book's relevance extends to digital humanities and geospatial studies, where its detailed mapping and linguistic insights provide rich data for understanding human-environment interactions. Additionally, online communities inspired by Macfarlane's work share routes, stories, and photographs, creating a modern extension of the oral and written traditions he documents.

As environmental concerns intensify globally, **The Old Ways** invites readers to consider how ancient knowledge and practices can inform sustainable futures. Walking becomes not just a leisure activity but a means of fostering ecological awareness and cultural continuity.

Robert Macfarlane's **The Old Ways** remains a seminal work that transcends simple categorization. Its blend of travel narrative, historical inquiry, and lyrical prose crafts a unique space where readers can rediscover the significance of paths both literal and metaphorical. By tracing the footprints of those who came before, Macfarlane encourages a renewed appreciation for the landscapes we inhabit and the stories they hold.

[Robert Macfarlane The Old Ways](#)

robert macfarlane the old ways: The Old Ways Robert Macfarlane, 2012-10-11 From the acclaimed author of *The Wild Places* and *Underland*, an exploration of walking and thinking In this exquisitely written book, Robert Macfarlane sets off from his Cambridge, England, home to follow

the ancient tracks, holloways, drove roads, and sea paths that crisscross both the British landscape and its waters and territories beyond. The result is an immersive, enthralling exploration of the ghosts and voices that haunt old paths, of the stories our tracks keep and tell, and of pilgrimage and ritual. Told in Macfarlane's distinctive voice, *The Old Ways* folds together natural history, cartography, geology, archaeology and literature. His walks take him from the chalk downs of England to the bird islands of the Scottish northwest, from Palestine to the sacred landscapes of Spain and the Himalayas. Along the way he crosses paths with walkers of many kinds—wanderers, pilgrims, guides, and artists. Above all this is a book about walking as a journey inward and the subtle ways we are shaped by the landscapes through which we move. Macfarlane discovers that paths offer not just a means of traversing space, but of feeling, knowing, and thinking.

robert macfarlane the old ways: The Old Ways Robert Macfarlane, 2013-06-25 THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER SHORTLISTED FOR THE SAMUEL JOHNSON PRIZE The original bestseller from the beloved author of *UNDERLAND*, *LANDMARKS* and *THE LOST WORDS* - Robert Macfarlane travels Britain's ancient paths and discovers the secrets of our beautiful, underappreciated landscape 'The Old Ways confirms Macfarlane's reputation as one of the most eloquent and observant of contemporary writers about nature' Scotland on Sunday Following the tracks, holloways, drove-roads and sea paths that form part of a vast ancient network of routes criss-crossing the British Isles and beyond, Robert Macfarlane discovers a lost world - a landscape of the feet and the mind, of pilgrimage and ritual, of stories and ghosts; above all of the places and journeys which inspire and inhabit our imaginations. 'Sublime... It sets the imagination tingling, laying an irresistible trail for readers to follow' Sunday Times 'Read this and it will be impossible to take an unremarkable walk again' Metro 'He has a rare physical intelligence and affords total immersion in place, elements and the passage of time: wonderful' Antony Gormley

robert macfarlane the old ways: New Directions in Travel Writing Studies Paul Smethurst, Julia Kuehn, 2015-07-20 This collection focuses attention on theoretical approaches to travel writing, with the aim to advance the discourse. Internationally renowned, as well as emerging, scholars establish a critical milieu for travel writing studies, as well as offer a set of exemplars in the application of theory to travel writing.

robert macfarlane the old ways: Journey: The Way of the Disciple Richard Littledale, 2017-03-01 An accessible and thought-provoking devotional look at the nature of discipleship through the lens of pilgrimage. What do we learn about God whilst on the move which could not be learnt whilst stationary? From Abraham, Moses, Ruth to Jesus himself and the apostle Paul, the Bible is full of stories of people on the move and *Journey* looks at what we can learn from looking at the Christian life as one of pilgrimage. The chapters cover subjects such as provisions needed on the journey, communications and companions along the way, distractions from the path, the growth of 'new monasticism', and death as 'journey's end'. With questions for personal reflection included after each chapter this is much more than a book about pilgrimage, it encourages the reader to learn to journey through life in an attitude of pilgrimage -revealing that it is often in the very act of journeying that we find our deepest spiritual insights.

robert macfarlane the old ways: The Shifting Sands of the North Sea Lowlands Katie Ritson, 2018-10-26 Global seawater levels are rising and the low-lying coasts of the North Sea basin are amongst the most vulnerable in Europe. In our current moment of environmental crisis, the North Sea coasts are literary arenas in which the challenges and concerns of the Anthropocene are being played out. This book shows how the fragile landscapes around the North Sea have served as bellwethers for environmental concern both now and in the recent past. It looks at literary sources drawn from the countries around the North Sea (Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and England) from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, taking them out of their established national and cultural contexts and reframing them in the light of human concern with fast-changing and hazardous environments. The six chapters serve as literary case studies that highlight memories of flood disaster and recovery, attempts to engineer the landscape into submission, perceptions of the landscape as both local and global, and the imagination of the future of our planet. This approach,

which combines environmental history and ecocriticism, shows the importance of cultural artefacts in understandings of, and responses to, environmental change, and advocates for the importance of literary studies in the environmental humanities. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of the Environmental Humanities, including Eco-criticism and Environmental History, as well as anyone studying literature from the Germanic philologies.

robert macfarlane the old ways: The Near North Ivan Vladislavić, 2024-02-19 The Near North is a vivid account of life in Johannesburg in times of crisis. From the stony ridges of Langermann Kop in Kensington to the tree-lined avenues of Houghton, we follow the writer through the city's streets, meeting its ghosts and journeying through time and (often circumscribed) space, finding meaning in the everyday and incidental. At once an echo of Ivan Vladislavić's award-winning Portrait with Keys and an original work of intense acuity and quiet power, The Near North is both intimate and expansive, ranging from small domestic dramas to great public spectacles. Wryly playful at times, fiercely serious at others, it is certain to move and delight all who accompany the writer through its pages.

robert macfarlane the old ways: Our Home and Treaty Land Raymond C. Aldred, Matthew R. Anderson, 2024-02-16 Our Home and Treaty Land addresses the critical need for non-Indigenous peoples to face their past with honesty in order to navigate a harmonious way forward. In this revised edition, co-authors Ray Aldred and Matthew Anderson take you on an expanded exploration of Treaty, and how it is a solution to Canada's social, spiritual, and ecological crises. Aldred brings Cree spirituality, cosmology, and experiences of intergenerational trauma into conversation with Christian concepts of creation and repentance, mapping a path towards restorative justice. Matthew, in alternating chapters, unfolds a journey (sometimes a literal one) of unsettling awakening to untaught Canadian histories and dishonoured Treaties, from the complexities of a typical settler-descendant hyphenated identity. Our Home and Treaty Land repurposes Christian scripture not as a license for dominance and conquest but as a model for sacred covenants. It provides gentle and valuable insights and concrete, practical guidance for individuals and communities eager to understand and honour their Treaty commitments. Within these pages, you'll discover Treaty as a family-making ceremony that binds settlers, Indigenous peoples, Land, and Creator together on a good path.

robert macfarlane the old ways: Talking Walking Rachel Bowlby, 2018-02-16 When something called theory first broke onto the seemingly stagnant scene of literary studies, it offered bright new ways and fields for critical reading: new methods and subjects, and also new words to speak them. The syllabus and the styles would never be the same, and reading was proudly claimed as a mode of social critique. The short pieces brought together in Talking Walking engage with all sorts of arguments then, now and earlier about the uses and history of critical reading -- of literature, and also of other cultural forms. There is much on the changing styles of literary-critical writing, and on the place of particular writers -- Virginia Woolf or Jacques Derrida -- in contemporary critical culture. There are pieces on clichés, on footnotes, on the language of the university job interview, on the use of domesticity as a catch-all negative term. There are also essays on cultural questions informed by critical theory. For instance: why has the topic of walking been such a fruitful thinking theme in literature and philosophy? How does the history of shopping and marketing theory intersect with those of literature and subjectivity? How, in the light of reproductive technologies and new social forms, has becoming a parent turned into a culturally prominent kind of story? These are some of the questions that arise in the interview and essays that make up Rachel Bowlby's book, which derives from several decades of working and writing and talking and walking within the changing contemporary landscape of literary and critical studies. Old and new arrivals into this world will find pleasures of reading and matter for thinking on every page.

robert macfarlane the old ways: Metaphysics of Children's Literature Lisa Sainsbury, 2021-01-28 Metaphysics of Children's Literature is the first sustained study of ways in which children's literature confronts metaphysical questions about reality and the nature of what there is in the world. In its exploration of something and nothing, this book identifies a number of

metaphysical structures in texts for young people—such as the ontological exchange or nowhere in extremis—demonstrating that their entanglement with the workings of reality is unique to the conditions of children's literature. Drawing on contemporary children's literature discourse and metaphysicians from Heidegger and Levinas, to Bachelard, Sartre and Haraway, Lisa Sainsbury reveals the metaphysical groundwork of children's literature. Authors and illustrators covered include: Allan and Janet Ahlberg, Mac Barnett, Ron Brooks, Peter Brown, Lewis Carroll, Eoin Colfer, Gary Crew, Roald Dahl, Roddy Doyle, Imme Dros, Sarah Ellis, Mem Fox, Zana Fraillon, Libby Gleeson, Kenneth Grahame, Armin Greder, Sonya Hartnett, Tana Hoban, Judy Horacek, Tove Jansson, Oliver Jeffers, Jon Klassen, Elaine Konigsburg, Norman Lindsay, Geraldine McCaughrean, Robert Macfarlane, Jackie Morris, Edith Nesbit, Mary Norton, Jill Paton Walsh, Philippa Pearce, Ivan Southall, William Steig, Shaun Tan, Tarjei Vesaas, David Wiesner, Margaret Wild, Jacqueline Woodson and many others.

robert macfarlane the old ways: The Way Around Nicholas Triolo, 2025-07-08 “The Way Around is the kind of book my soul perpetually yearns for. It reshaped how I see the world.”—Robert Moor, author of *On Trails: An Exploration* Growing up in northern California, in a family of high-achieving athletes, Nicholas Triolo was imbued with a particularly acute form of our intensely goal-oriented culture. “Do the reps,” he internalized. “Commit to the work. Grind for your dreams.” Shortly after graduating from college, he embarked on a solo circumnavigation of the globe. And then after returning to the States, he threw himself into ultrarunning, all to combat a deepening discontent. While traveling around the world, it was in Kathmandu that Triolo first encountered kora, a form of moving prayer in which pilgrims walk in circles around a sacred site or object—a kind of “ritualized remembering” birthed by place. Unable to shake this initial encounter with circumambulation, he sets out here on three such extended walks. First, he completes the sacred thirty-two-mile revolution around Tibet’s Mount Kailash, in search of a cultural counter to Western linearity. Then, following his mother’s diagnosis with breast cancer, he returns home to California and takes part in an annual circuit of Mount Tamalpais, tracing a route made famous by Beat poets Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen, and Allen Ginsberg. And then finally, he meets up with a quirky hydrogeologist in Butte, Montana, and joins his walk around the Berkeley Pit Complex, the largest Superfund site in the country. At once uncommonly humble and thrillingly transcendent, blurring the boundaries of inner and outer landscapes, *The Way Around* models what it means to experience a true revolution of heart and home—for the flourishing of all.

robert macfarlane the old ways: *The Floor Is Lava* Ivan Brett, 2019-05-28 With 100 games to start a party, ideas to trigger conversation, storytelling setups, and fiendish puzzles—no materials required—*The Floor Is Lava* is a how-to for turning screen-free time into quality time. Put down the phone and pick up the fun! Analog play is known to stimulate imaginative thinking, problem solving, and interpersonal connection. However, games only seem to exist on screen now and quality time spent together—in person—is rarer than ever. *The Floor Is Lava* is perfect for anyone looking to disconnect from technology and spend some time with family or friends. Packed with one hundred screen-free games, it’s the necessary antidote to digital overload and the answer to every occasion: - hosting a party - long car rides - cooling off on summer days - sitting around the dinner table - holiday gatherings - rainy days The best part is, you don’t need anything to play. So what are you waiting for? Jump up and get started—the floor is lava!

robert macfarlane the old ways: Wanderers Kerri Andrews, 2020-10-07 Offering a beguiling view of the history of walking, *Wanderers* guides us through the different ways of seeing—of being—articulated by ten pathfinding women writers. “A wild portrayal of the passion and spirit of female walkers and the deep sense of ‘knowing’ that they found along the path.”—Raynor Winn, author of *The Salt Path* “I opened this book and instantly found that I was part of a conversation I didn’t want to leave. A dazzling, inspirational history.”—Helen Mort, author of *No Map Could Show Them* This is a book about ten women over the past three hundred years who have found walking essential to their sense of themselves, as people and as writers. *Wanderers* traces their footsteps, from eighteenth-century parson’s daughter Elizabeth Carter—who desired nothing more than to be

taken for a vagabond in the wilds of southern England—to modern walker-writers such as Nan Shepherd and Cheryl Strayed. For each, walking was integral, whether it was rambling for miles across the Highlands, like Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, or pacing novels into being, as Virginia Woolf did around Bloomsbury. Offering a beguiling view of the history of walking, *Wanderers* guides us through the different ways of seeing—of being—articulated by these ten pathfinding women.

robert macfarlane the old ways: *Exploring Environmental Violence* Richard A. Marcantonio, John Paul Lederach, Agustín Fuentes, 2024-05-09 The contributors to this book represent a wide breadth of scholarly approaches, including law, social and environmental science, engineering, as well as from the arts and humanities. The chapters explore what environmental violence is and does, and the variety of ways in which it affects different communities. The authors draw on empirical data from around the globe, including Ukraine, French Polynesia, Latin America, and the Arctic. The variety of responses to environmental violence by different communities, whether through active resistance or the creative arts, are also discussed, providing the foundation on which to build alternatives to the potentially damaging trajectory on which humans currently find themselves. This book is indispensable for researchers and policymakers in environmental policy and peacebuilding. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

robert macfarlane the old ways: *Walking Histories, 1800-1914* Chad Bryant, Arthur Burns, Paul Readman, 2016-04-16 Few historians have written about walking, despite its obvious centrality to the human condition. Focusing on the period 1800-1914, this book examines the practices and meanings of walking in the context of transformative modernity. It boldly suggests that once historians place walking at the heart of their analyses, exciting new perspectives on themes central to the 'long nineteenth century' emerge. *Walking Histories, 1800-1914* adopts a global perspective, including contributions from specialists in the history and culture of Great Britain, North America, Australia, Russia, East-Central Europe, and South Asia. Critically engaging with recent research, the contributions within offer fresh insights for academic experts, while remaining accessible to student readers. This book will be essential reading for those interested in movement, travel, leisure, urban history, and environmental history.

robert macfarlane the old ways: *Coastal Britain: England and Wales* Stuart Fisher, 2019-04-18 When all her islands are taken into consideration, the British coastline spans almost 8,000 miles, which is longer than both Brazil's and Mexico's. From the clear blue waters of serene Cornish bays to the tempestuous seas around rugged Pembrokeshire headlands, this new book journeys around the varied shorelines of England and Wales to complete the most comprehensive survey ever taken. Stuart Fisher, bestselling author of the similarly comprehensive *Canals of Britain*, visits all the places of interest along the entire coastline of England and Wales: from remote countryside to modern cities, exploring history and heritage, striking architecture and dramatic engineering, wildlife, wonderful flora and fauna, art and literature. His journey takes him from industrial hubs to small villages and fishing communities, providing a keen insight into what makes each stretch of Britain's shoreline unique and special. Evocative and often dramatic colour photographs help capture the great variety of the coast, and maps, book covers, stamps and local artefacts help convey the character of each area. This comprehensive and absorbing survey is a treasure trove of interest and knowledge for walkers, cyclists, boaters, holidaymakers and indeed anyone with an interest in coastal Britain.

robert macfarlane the old ways: *A Jurisprudence of Movement* Olivia Barr, 2016-02-22 Law moves, whether we notice or not. Set amongst a spatial turn in the humanities, and jurisprudence more specifically, this book calls for a greater attention to legal movement, in both its technical and material forms. Despite various ways the spatial turn has been taken up in legal thought, questions of law, movement and its materialities are too often overlooked. This book addresses this oversight, and it does so through an attention to the materialities of legal movement. Paying attention to how law moves across different colonial and contemporary spaces, this book reveals there is a problem with common law's place. Primarily set in the postcolonial context of Australia – although ranging beyond this nationalised topography, both spatially and temporally – this book argues movement is

fundamental to the very terms of common law's existence. How, then, might we move well? Explored through examples of walking and burial, this book responds to the challenge of how to live with a contemporary form of colonial legal inheritance by arguing we must take seriously the challenge of living with law, and think more carefully about its spatial productions, and place-making activities. Unsettling place, this book returns the question of movement to jurisprudence.

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