

Surfin' Scoot's Surfing Lesson



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Forward

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

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To learn more, access additional resources at: www.thebcc.org.



June sunshine sparkled over the Outer Banks, and Sea Oats School had just closed its doors for the summer. That could only mean one thing for Sandy, Scoot, and Shellby Dunehopper—

Summer vacation!

Scoot wiggled his eyestalks with excitement. "No homework. No bedtime bells. And plenty of time to surf!"



Scoot had learned to surf when he was just a tiny ghost crab, riding gentle waves close to shore. Over the years, he'd become such a strong surfer that he had an idea.

"I could teach others!" Scoot said proudly.

So he painted colorful signs that read:

Scoot's Surfing Lessons
Safe • Fun • Beginner Friendly

He posted them near piers, boardwalks, and little beach shops all along the Outer Banks.



Before long, Scoot got his very first student—his good friend George the grasshopper from Sea Oats School.

They met at the shoreline on a bright, breezy morning. The ocean sparkled, seagulls called overhead, and the waves rolled in just right—not too big, not too small.

“Perfect beginner waves!” Scoot said with a grin.





Before anyone touched the water, Scoot raised one claw.

“Rule number one,” he said kindly “safety first!”

Scoot’s Surf Safety Rules

- Always surf with an adult or instructor
- Wear a leash—it keeps your board close
- Use a soft-top board (they’re safer and easier)
- Check the ocean—small, gentle waves are best
- Never surf alone!

“And for beginners,” Scoot added, “waves should be about knee-to waist-high.”

George nodded seriously. “Got it!”

“Now,” Scoot said, “let’s practice on the sand first.”

He showed George the pop-up move:

1. Lie on your belly
2. Hands by your chest
3. Push up
4. Jump your feet underneath you
5. Bend your knees, arms out wide

“Practice this a few times,” Scoot explained. “It makes surfing much easier!”

After a few wobbly tries—and one grasshopper somersault—George was ready.



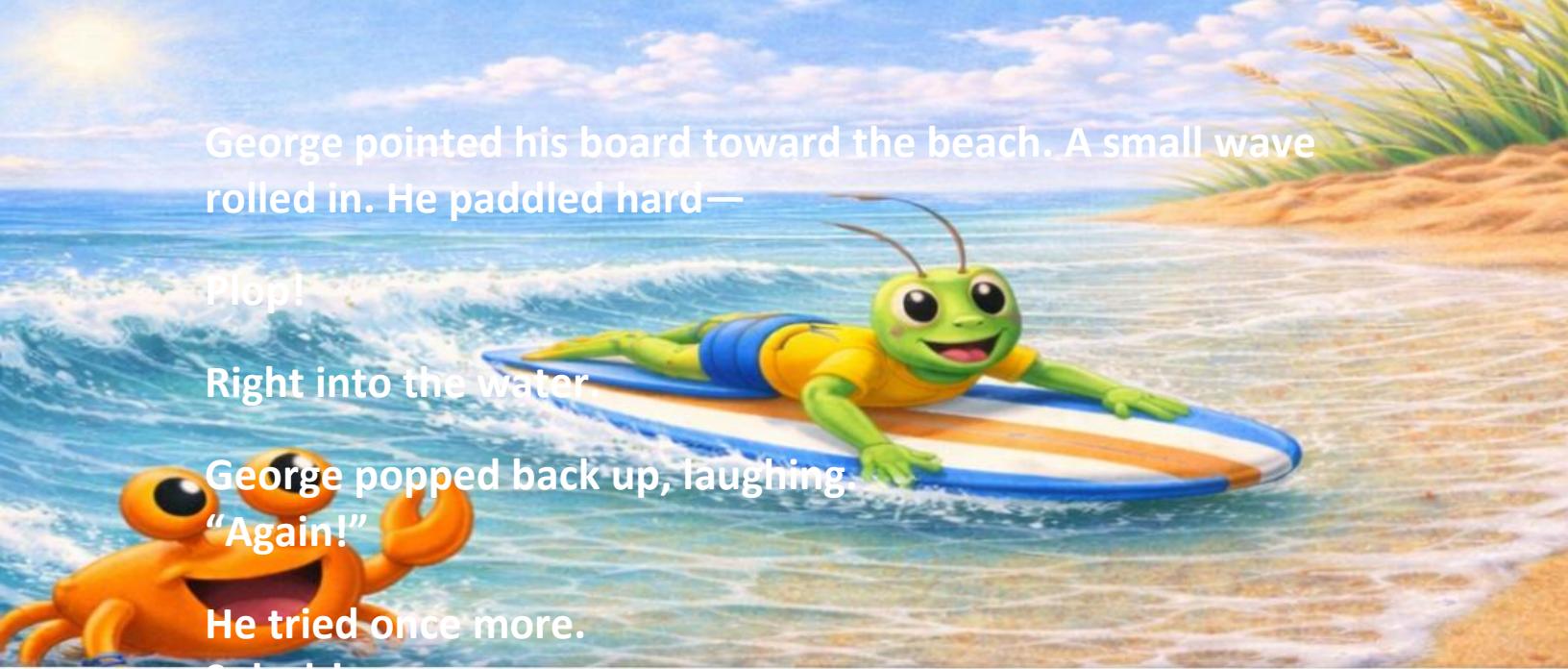
Next came paddling.

“Lie flat on your board,” Scoot said.

“Chest up, eyes forward. Use long, smooth arm strokes. Let your legs relax behind you. Strong paddling helps you catch the wave!”

Then came the big moment.





George pointed his board toward the beach. A small wave rolled in. He paddled hard—

Plop!

Right into the water.

George popped back up, laughing.
“Again!”

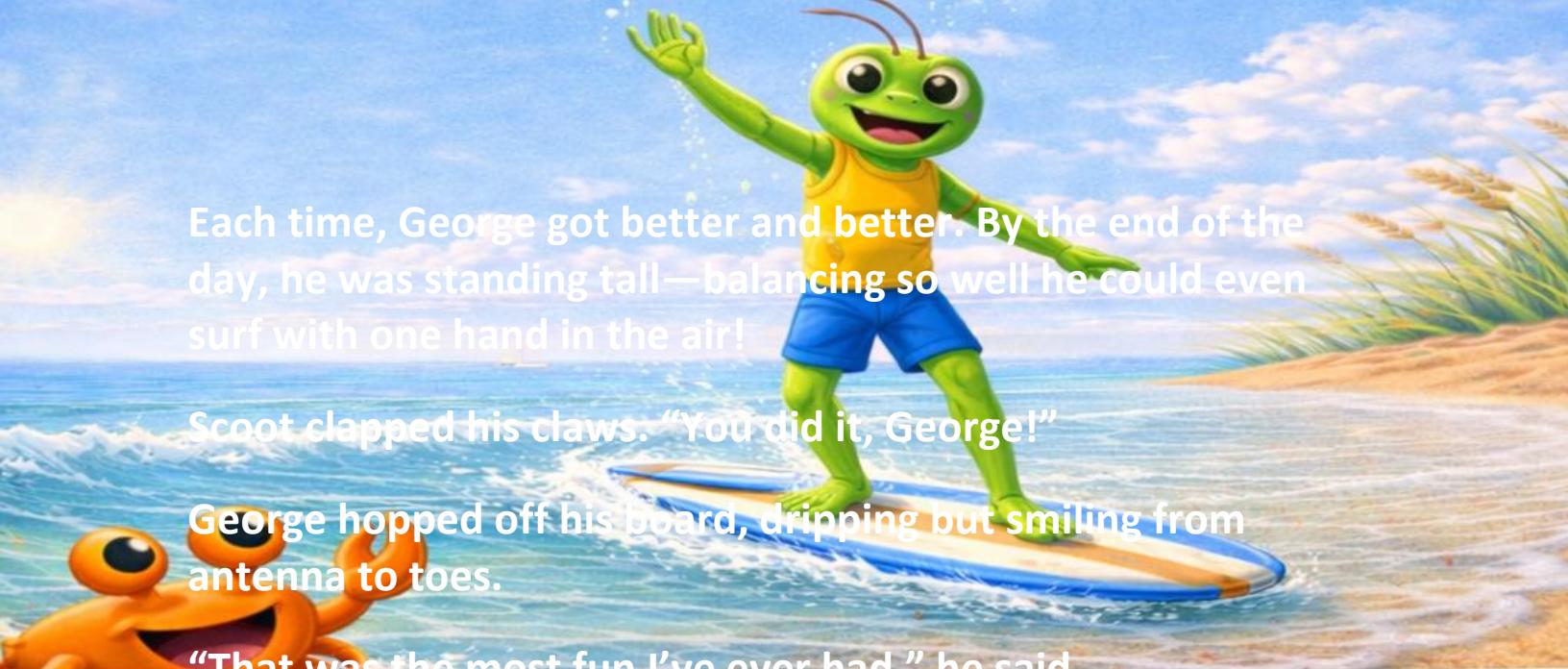
He tried once more.

Splash!

And again.

Whoosh!





Each time, George got better and better. By the end of the day, he was standing tall—balancing so well he could even surf with one hand in the air!

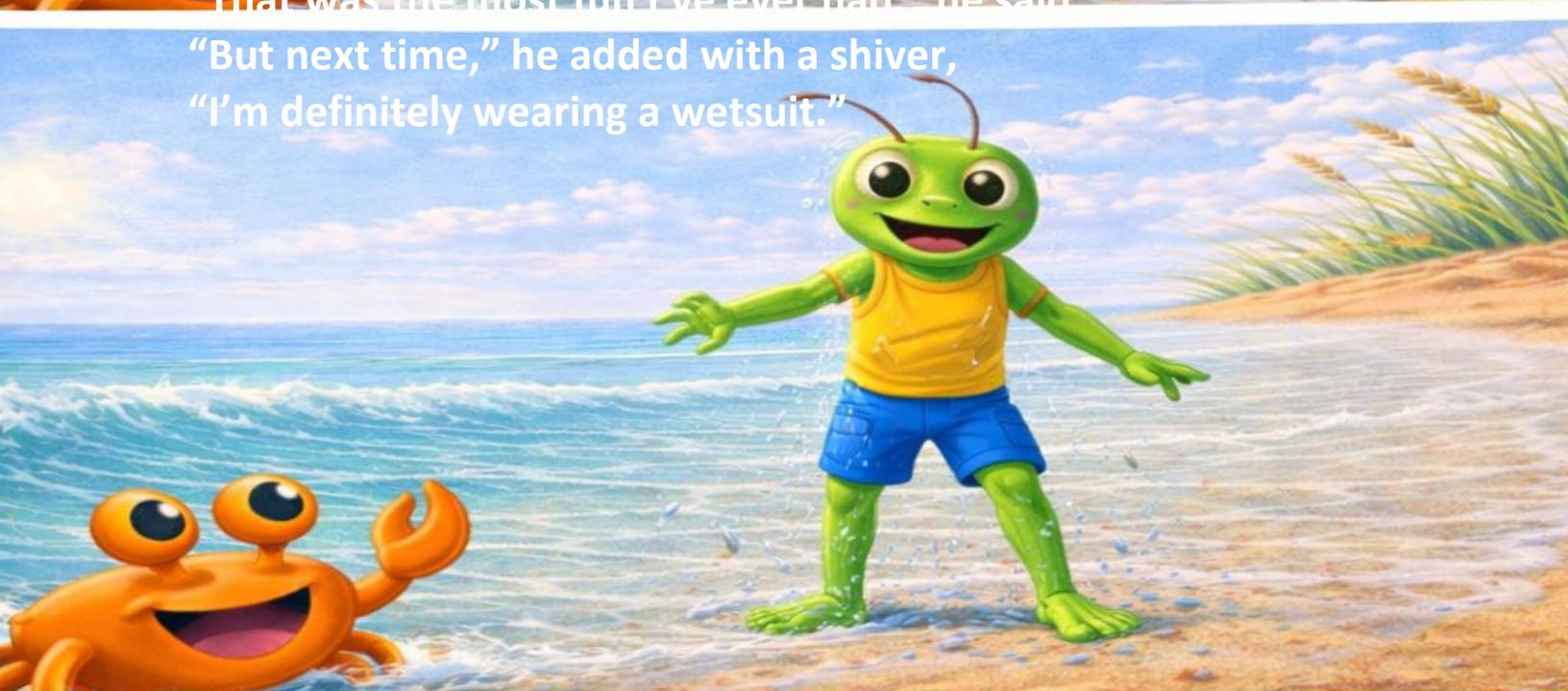
Scoot clapped his claws. “You did it, George!”

George hopped off his board, dripping but smiling from antenna to toes.

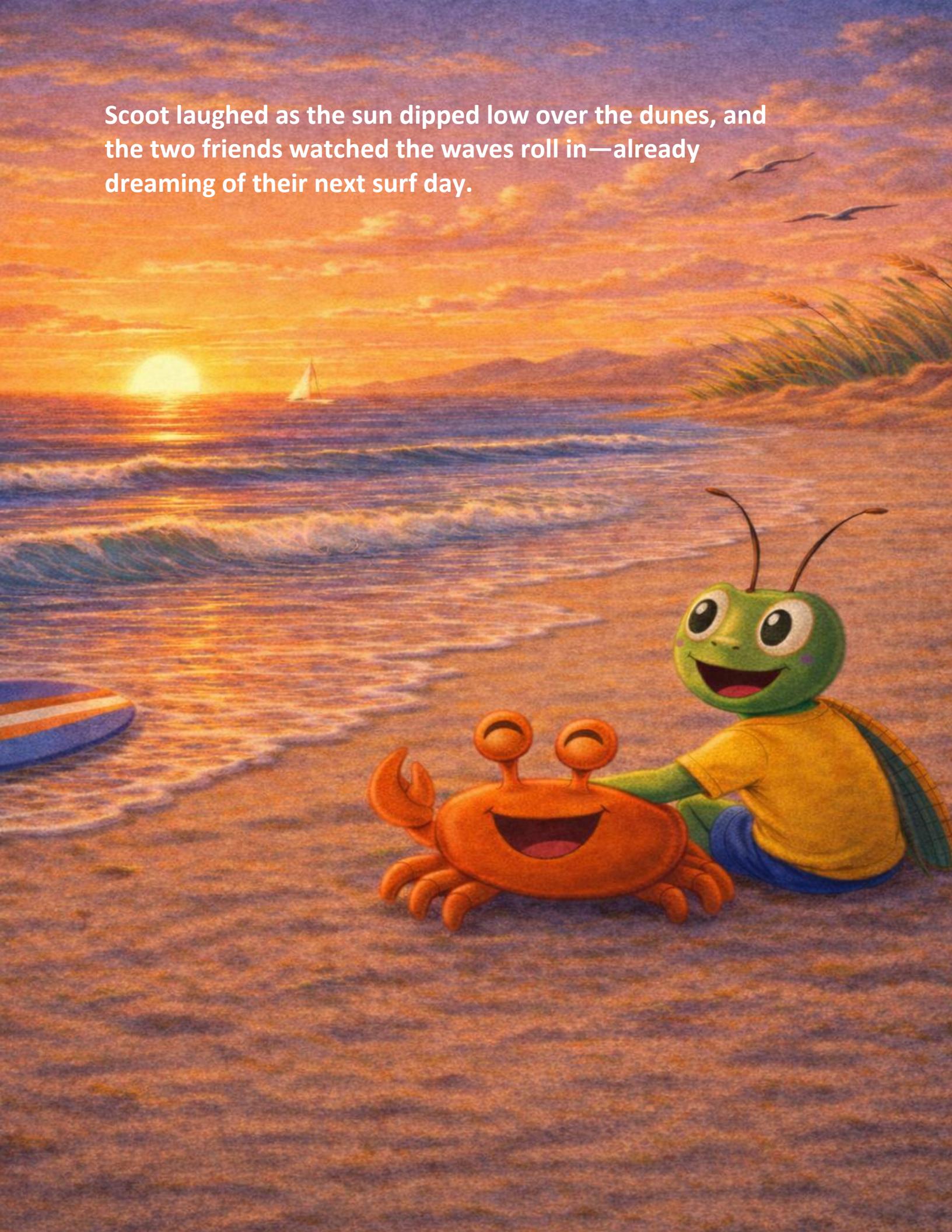
“That was the most fun I’ve ever had,” he said.

“But next time,” he added with a shiver,

“I’m definitely wearing a wetsuit.”



Scoot laughed as the sun dipped low over the dunes, and the two friends watched the waves roll in—already dreaming of their next surf day.



Did You Know?

- Waves don't "travel" to shore — energy does! The water mostly moves in circles, but the wave's energy pushes forward until it reaches shallow water and breaks.
- Small waves are best for beginners. Knee- to waist-high waves (just like Scoot chose!) are safer, gentler, and easier to practice on.
- A surfboard leash is a safety tool. It keeps your board close so it doesn't float away—or bump into someone else.
- Practicing on sand really helps! Learning the pop-up move on land builds balance and muscle memory before hitting the water.
- Wind and tides affect surf conditions. Calm winds and certain tide levels can make waves smoother and more predictable.
- Ghost crabs (like Scoot!) are great wave watchers. Living right where land meets sea helps them notice subtle changes in water, wind, and sand.

Surf Smart, Stay Safe, and Respect the Beach — it's a living place!