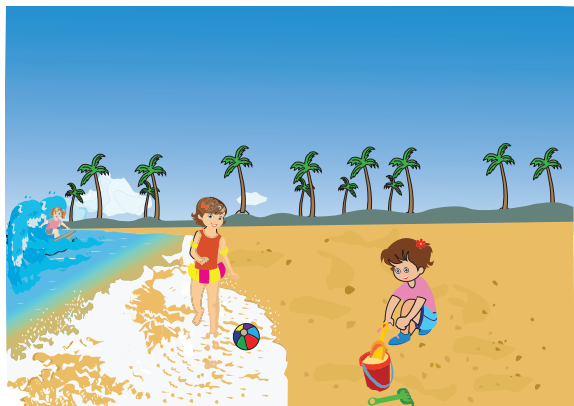


A Day at the Beach



Gretta kicked off her sandals and wiggled her toes in the warm beach sand. She was accompanied by her friends Anika and Kyle, and today was the perfect day for an afternoon at the ocean.

"What should we do first?" Gretta asked. They had boogie boards to occupy them, and they saw a group of kids playing beach volleyball a few feet away.

"I want to ride on the waves," Kyle said. "It's the perfect occasion to use my new board!"

Gretta grinned because she wanted to get into the water as well. "Does that sound good to you, Anika?"

Anika tied her hair back with a hair tie. "You bet!"

They headed into the gentle waves and began splashing, riding, and laughing in the water. When the three of them were together, they had a guarantee of fun. Today was no different.

After only a few minutes, though, a loud whistle pierced the air. The interruption to their fun caused them all to take notice. A lifeguard dressed in red stood on the shore, waving his arms and blowing a whistle.

"Big waves are coming in!" he shouted. "Hazardous conditions are possible."

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Gretta knew what that meant. It was time to get out of the water. Her mom would be upset if she stayed in against the lifeguard's advice. Kyle and Anika followed her out of the water.

"Do you want to play volleyball?" Kyle asked.

"Sure," Gretta said. What she really wanted to know, though, was what made the waves. "How do you think the waves went from being small to hazardous?"

Kyle shrugged. "I don't know."

Anika wiped her legs with her towel. "I know what happens," she said. "I learned about it in science. Ocean waves are often caused by the wind. The air friction stirs the water, and the motion carries across the water for miles. My teacher called these surface waves."

Gretta listened with interest. Unfortunately, the surface waves had ruined their fun.

"Let's play volleyball," Kyle said.

They headed over to join the group that was growing by the minute as people poured out of the ocean. The three of them joined one of the teams and jumped right into the game. The afternoon flew by as they laughed and played, and soon it was time to head home.

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"Maybe we can come back for the waves another day," Anika suggested.

"I sure hope so," Gretta said.

Kyle grinned. "How about tomorrow?" They all agreed it was a great plan.

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1) How are ocean waves formed?

2) Identify the figure of speech used in the underlined part of the sentence.

The afternoon flew by as they laughed and played.

- a) alliteration
- b) simile
- c) metaphor

3) Explain the metaphor used in the underlined part of the sentence.

After a few minutes, a loud whistle pierced the air.

4) How did Gretta, Anika, and Kyle enjoy in the water?

5) Did they agree to come back to the beach the next day?

- a) yes
- b) no