



## **The Sandcastle That Wasn't Lost** **Extended Reader & STEAM Guide**

Title

Surf Soup and the Sandcastle That Wasn't Lost

Subtitle

An Adventure of Waves, Fun, and Hidden Treasures

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Big Ideas

Resilience • Engineering • Creative problem solving

Before Reading

Ask students:

What happens when waves hit sand?

Have you ever rebuilt something after it fell?

After Reading Discussion

Why did the wave wash the sandcastle away?

How did Koa react?

What did he learn about starting again?

STEAM Activities

Science – Wet vs Dry Sand

Students test:

Dry sand

Wet sand

Which builds stronger towers?

Discuss water acting as a binder.

Engineering – Strong Sandcastle Challenge

Students design towers using:

sand

cups

sticks

Goal: build the tallest tower that survives a “wave test.”

Technology – Time-Lapse Building

Students take photos while building.

Create a simple slideshow showing the process.

Art – Sand Texture Rubbings

Use textured paper to mimic sand patterns.

Math – Measure the Towers

Students measure height of their sand structures.

Compare results.

Reflection

What matters more:

The finished castle

or the fun of building it?

Surf Soup®: Sandcastle Adventure – Teacher / Parent Guide

Discussion Questions

How did Koa feel when the waves washed away his sandcastle?

What do you think is the “real treasure” in this story?

Can you spot all the hidden treasures on each page?

What would you build if the waves washed your castle away – would you try again?

Activities / Experiments

Hidden Object Hunt: Find shells, crabs, hearts, and beach balls in the illustrations.

Build & Reflect: Build sandcastles or towers at home or outside; notice how each one is unique.

Emotions & Waves: Connect waves washing castles to feelings changing – draw or describe your emotions as waves.

Observation Game: Watch how water moves sand – discuss impermanence and joy in the process.

Learning Objectives

Introduces emotional hygiene / resilience in a playful, interactive way

Reinforces mindfulness, impermanence, and joy in the process

Encourages repeated reads through hidden objects and interactive discovery