

Sofie's Big Idea

Once there was a girl named Sofie. She lived with her Aunt Lily on the island of Kawaii in Hawaii.

Sofie and her aunt had many adventures together. They once climbed to the top of the volcano on their island. They also swam with dolphins, touched sharks and went scuba diving.

One day when Sophie was nine, Aunt Lily said she was old enough to go snorkeling alone! Aunt Lily would go too, but Sofie was allowed to explore the reef and go swimming and stay where she could still see Lily, but faintly. When Sofie heard the news, that she was going snorkeling by herself, she jumped so high she almost touched the ceiling! (The ceiling was not all that high.)

They got their swimsuits on, but didn't need a tank because they could both hold their breath for 2 minutes (under and out of water.)

They went to the beach and swam out together. Then they stopped to tread water and go over the rules before Sofie went off on her own.

Sofie started out swimming farther into the sea. She saw turtles, dolphins, and stingrays and all different colors of coral. A bit farther into the sea, she looked back to see her aunt waving to say that was far enough.

She looked around and suddenly felt something scrape her knee. "Ouch," she said looking down at it. She was bleeding. A can had scraped her knee. "Where did that come from?" she wondered.

She turned around and looked. She saw a massive pile of trash floating just a bit farther out. She wondered why it was there in the ocean.

Sofie swam back to Aunt Lily and told her what she had seen. When they got home, they looked it up and found out that there is a lot of trash in the ocean. They found out there is a pile of trash bigger than the state of Texas called "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch."

Sofie wanted to do something to help. So she organized a clean up the ocean and beach day. She made fliers and printed them out to hang up at school and around her neighborhood.

When the day arrived, more than 100 people came to help Sofie and her aunt clean up the beach and ocean. They filled 1,000 bags of garbage.

This was just the beginning for Sofie.

Let's skip ahead. When Sofie grew up, she became a scientist who works on how to clean up the ocean and ways to make less trash.

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