

THE WONDERS OF 'GOMON LANMER' in Seychelles

This activity book belongs to:

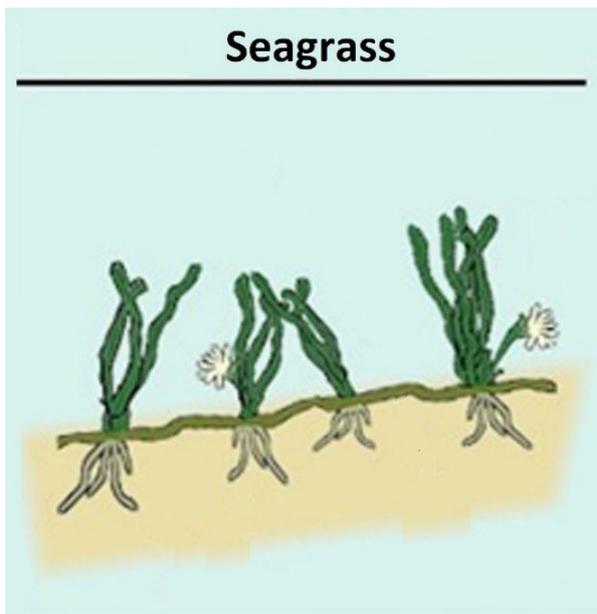
Primary School Edition

“GOMON LANMER”

“Gomon Lanmer” comprises many different species of marine plants. These fall into two main categories:

- **Seagrass** – complex plants similar to plants living on land
- **Algae** – very simple plants only found in water

The following drawings show differences between seagrass and algae.



Seagrass has both above-ground and below-ground structures.

Above-ground:

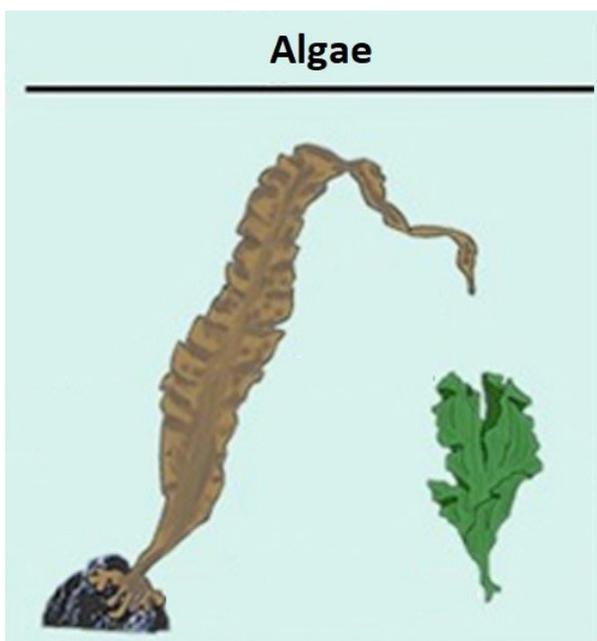
- Leaves
- Flowers

Below-ground:

- Rhizomes (horizontal structure)
- Roots

*Label the following:
leaves, flowers, rhizomes, roots*

There are about 9-12 species of seagrass in Seychelles.



Algae has mostly above-ground structures.

Above-ground:

- Blades (not true leaves)
- Holdfasts (connect the plants to objects and substrates)

Algae has no true leaves, no flowers, no rhizomes, no roots.

Label the following: blades, holdfasts

There are hundreds of species of algae in Seychelles.

MARINE MACROALGAE

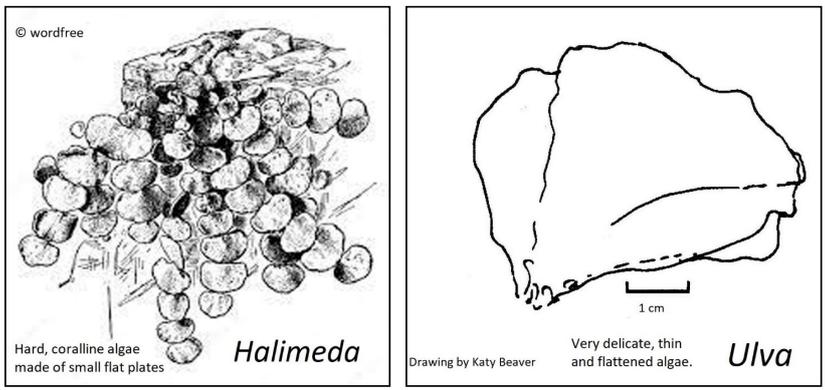
Macroalgae are Algae that are large enough to see with the human eye. Macroalgae are “Big” Algae.

There are three categories of Marine Macroalgae:

- Green Algae
- Brown Algae
- Red Algae

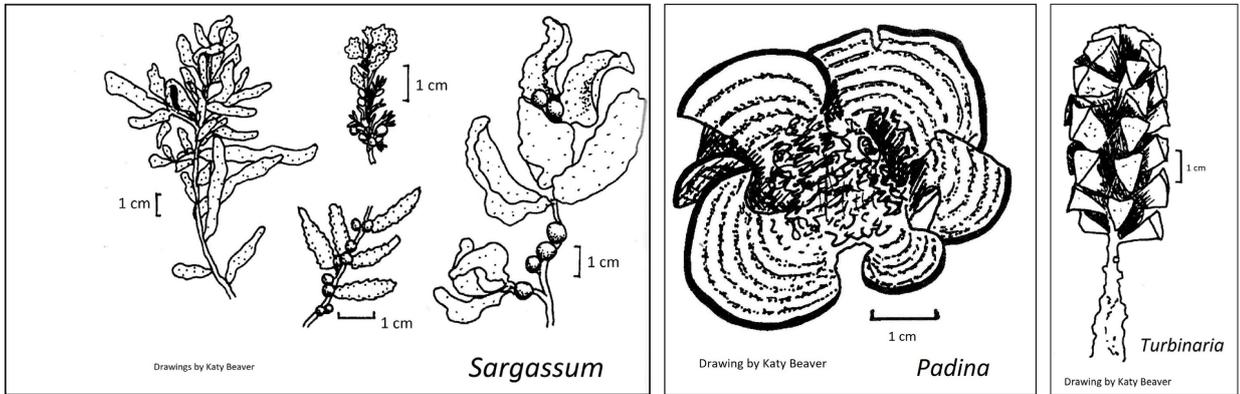
They are named after the pigments in their bodies that produce those colours. The following are examples of common Marine Macroalgae found in Seychelles.

GREEN ALGAE (“GOMON VER”):



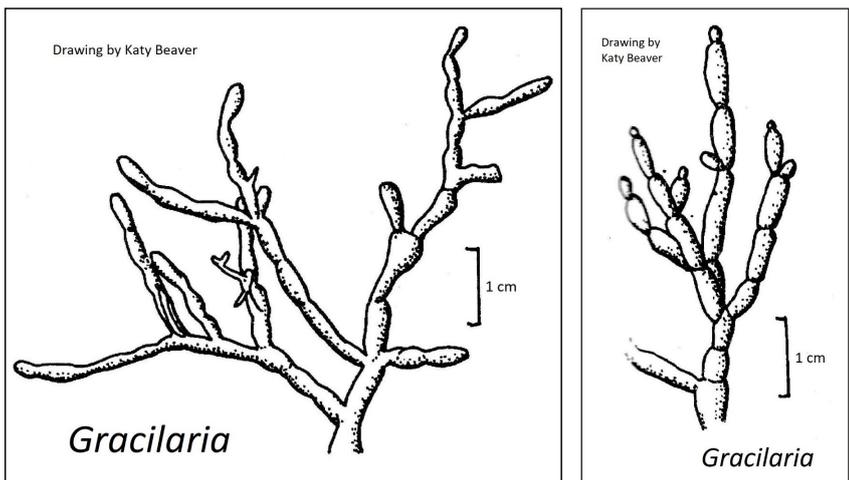
Colour this algae green

BROWN ALGAE (“GOMON GRI”):



Colour the algae above brown

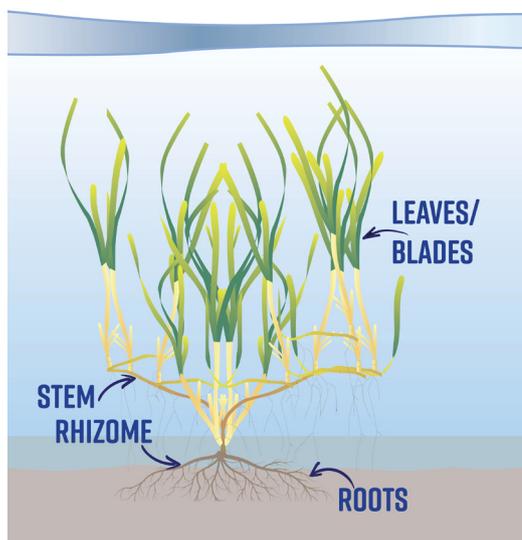
RED ALGAE (“GOMON ROUZ”):



Colour the algae here pink and red

“ZERB LANMER/ GOMON ZERB”

THE SEAGRASSES OF SEYCHELLES



Seagrasses are marine plants that **produce flowers and seeds underwater for reproduction**, and which are characterized by **leaves with veins, roots and rhizomes** (structures that transport nutrients throughout the body of the plant).

Although seagrasses look superficially like terrestrial grass, in fact, they are not related to grass.

There are **five** families of seagrasses which have been identified in Seychelles' waters. **Do you know the creole names for them?**



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ENHALUS

- very long leaves measuring up to 2 metres
- at low tide, long leaves float at the surface of the sea
- leaves easily entangled in boat propellers

The **two** creole names for enhalus are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon fey long | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon zerb gran fey | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon gran fey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon riban | |



©Jeanne A Mortimer

HALOPHILA

- small delicate plants with oval shaped leaves usually grown in pairs

The **two** creole names for halophila are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon doub | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon oval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon pti fey | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon pti fey oval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zerb lanmer zorey lapen | <input type="checkbox"/> Zerb lanmer papiyon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lerb pti fey | <input type="checkbox"/> Zerb mer oval |



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SYRINGODIUM

Individual leaves cylindrical in shape, similar to spaghetti.

The **two** creole names for syringodium are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon kalimen | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon min |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon pikan | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon pin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon sed | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon spageti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lerb pwent | |



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THALASSIA, CYMODOCEA AND HALODULE

*-short flat leaves, usually less than 40cm long
-a favourite food of sea turtles*

The **two** creole names for thalassia, cymodocea and halodule are are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon torti | <input type="checkbox"/> Lerb torti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon ver | <input type="checkbox"/> Zerb torti'd mer |



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THALASSODENDRON

*-short flat strap-like leaves
-grow in clusters at the end of long stems*

The creole name for thalassodendron are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon fey an touf | <input type="checkbox"/> Gomon levantay |
|--|---|

A HOME FOR MANY SPECIES

Both natural and human activities can be harmful for seagrass meadows. However, the direct and indirect effects of human activities account for most losses of seagrass beds in recent decades.

Can you link up each threat to the right image?

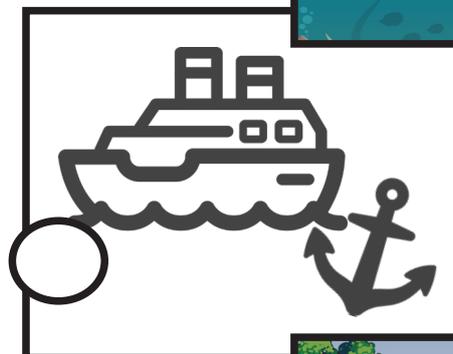
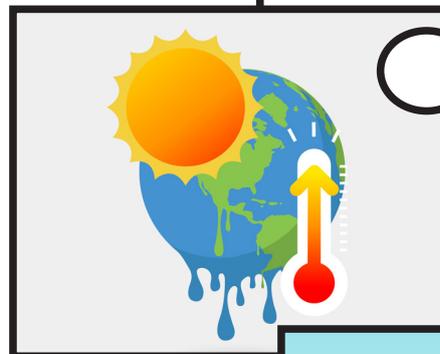
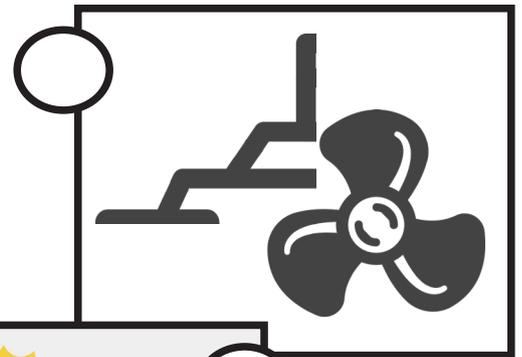
A Marine pollution is a combination of chemicals and trash, most of which comes from land sources and is washed or blown into the ocean.

B With deforestation, we lose forest areas the size of 20 football fields, every minute! Trees are cut down for several purposes including agriculture and to make room for buildings and homes.

C When boats anchor in seagrass areas, they are likely to uproot and tear apart seagrass plants which can destroy the seagrass meadows.

D Fishermen need to be careful when using their outboard engines near shallow water seagrass meadows. The propeller can badly damage the seagrass plants.

E The impacts of climate change, with increased ocean temperatures and more CO₂ in the atmosphere, will significantly impact the Earth's oceans and marine life.



ANIMAL WORD FIND

Many animals hide within seagrass meadows. They hide from predators like sharks and larger fish.

Can you find the hidden animal names in the puzzle below? Animal names can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Circle the animal names in the puzzle and tick off the animals when you have found them:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> clam | <input type="checkbox"/> sea horse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> crab | <input type="checkbox"/> sea turtle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dugong | <input type="checkbox"/> sea urchin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fish | <input type="checkbox"/> shrimp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lobster | <input type="checkbox"/> snail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> octopus | <input type="checkbox"/> squid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oyster | <input type="checkbox"/> starfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prawn | <input type="checkbox"/> stingray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scallop | |

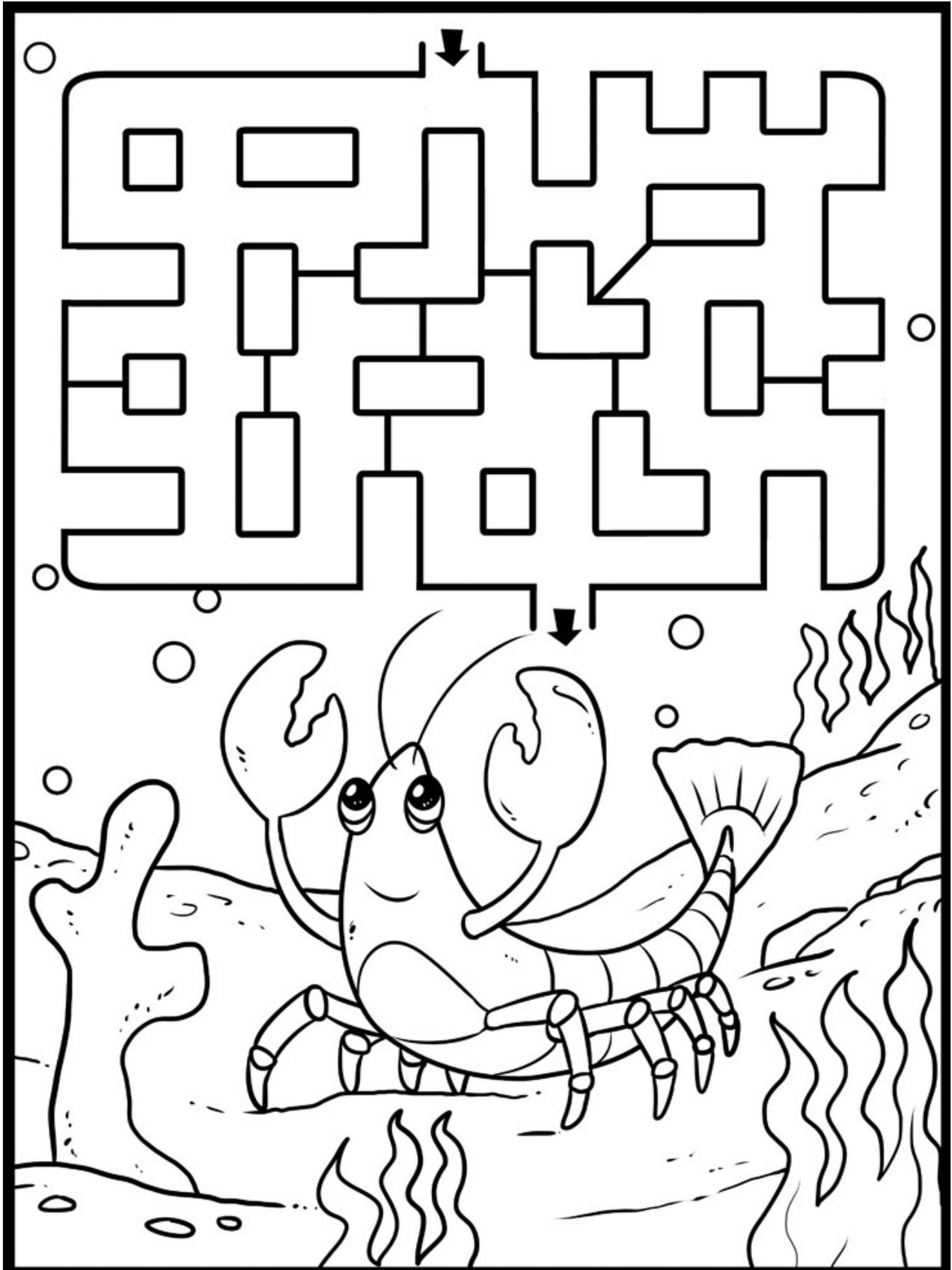
E L I A N S N R X H
S L O C T O P U S S
R E T S B O L I H T
O N B R B D F W R I
H S E A U R C H I N
A E R G A T G R M G
E C O T N W A R P R
S N S O Y S T E R A
G A P O L L A C S Y
B D I U Q S M A L C



LOBSTER MAZE

A lobster is NOT a fish. They are invertebrates that lack backbones. Although lobsters prefer to eat marine animals, they also eat aquatic plants such as algae and seagrasses.

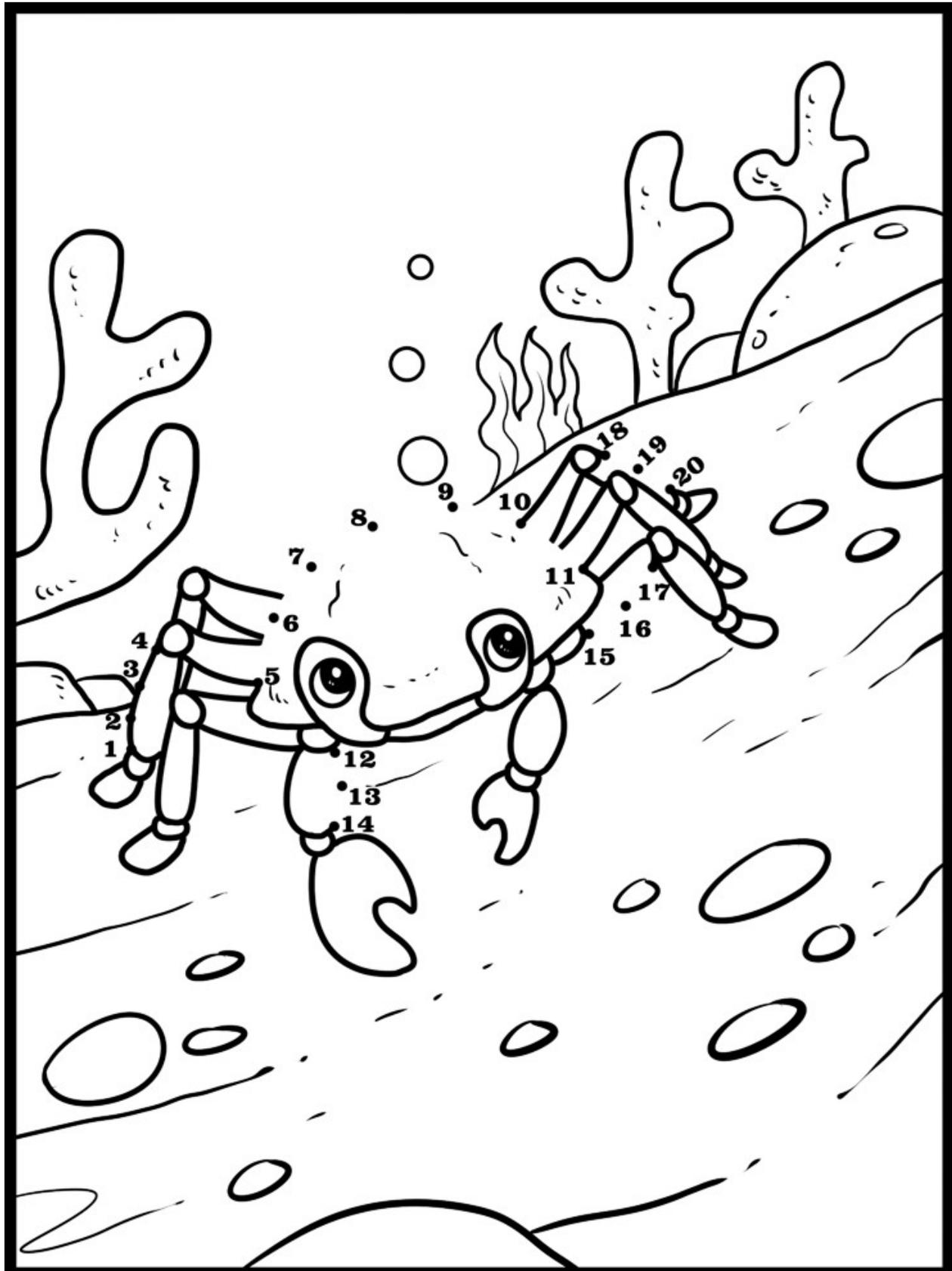
Can you get to the lobster?



CRAB CONNECT THE DOTS

Crabs have 10 legs. The first pair is its claws. They walk sideways. Crabs are omnivores (meaning they eat both animal and plant matter). They feed mainly on algae, but also bacteria, other crustaceans, molluscs, worms, and fungi.

Join the dots below and then colour the picture.



GREEN SEA TURTLE MAZE

One of the world's largest species of turtles.

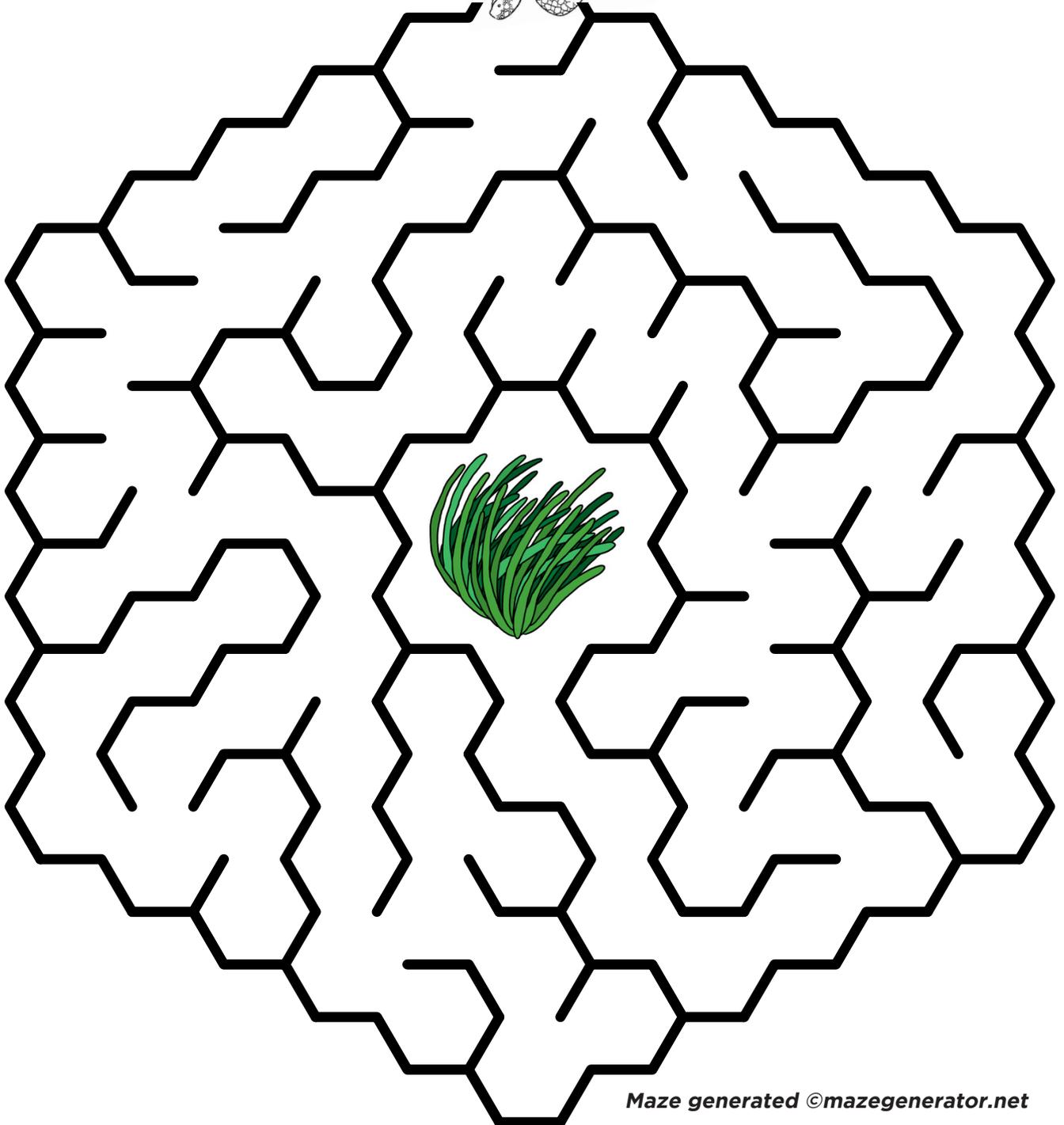
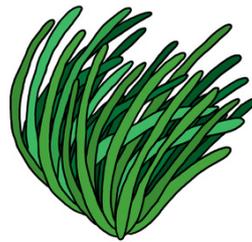
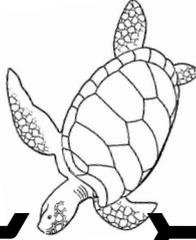
They weigh up to 150 to 200kg.

The length of their shell can be up to 130 cm.

They spend most of their lives underwater.

Sea turtles must breathe air. But they can dive down and hold their breath a long time.

Can you help this green sea turtle get to his breakfast?

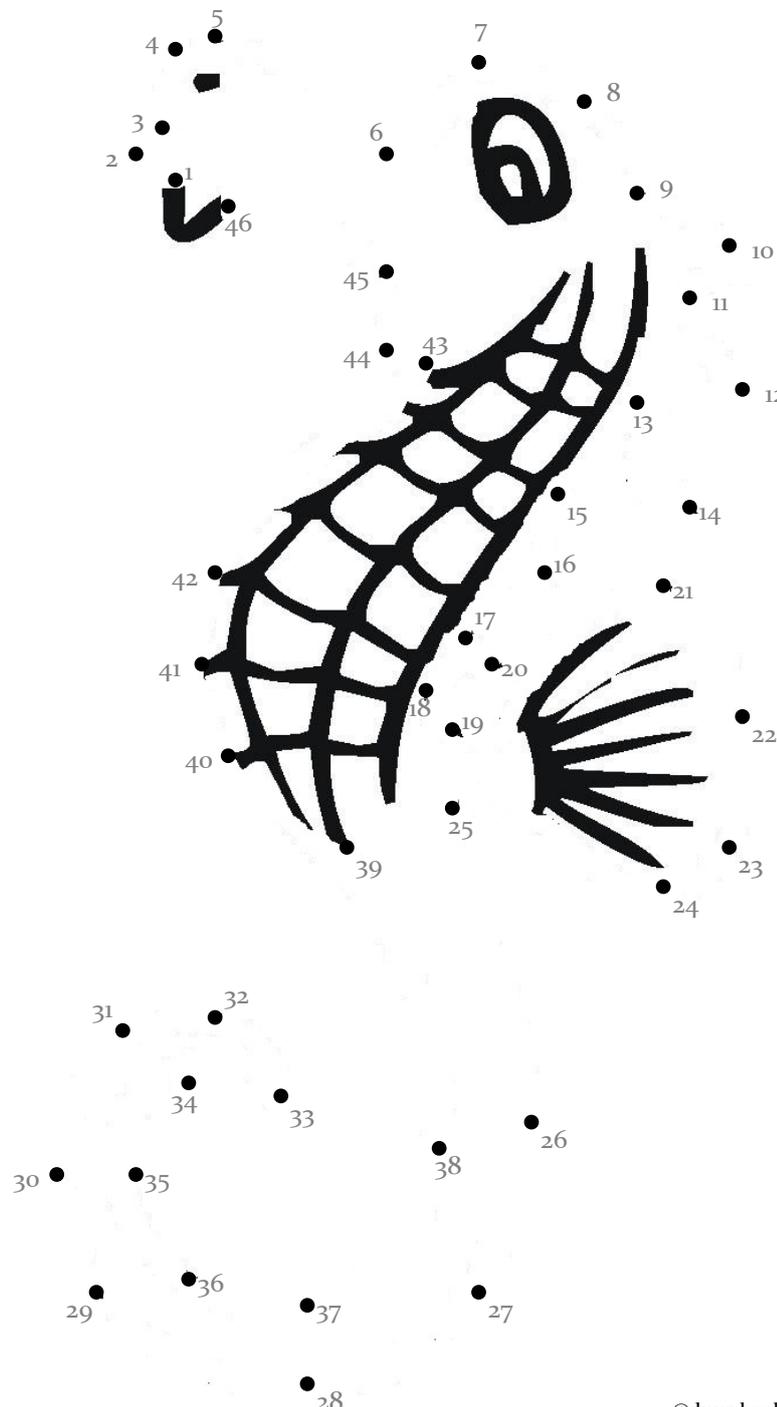


SEAHORSE CONNECT THE DOTS

Seahorses are small fishes that are named for the shape of their head, which looks like the head of a tiny horse.

Fun Fact: A female seahorse lays dozens, sometimes hundreds, of eggs in a pouch on the male seahorse's abdomen. **Then he takes care of the babies!**

*Can you connect the dots from 1 to 46?
Colour the seahorse when you have finished!*

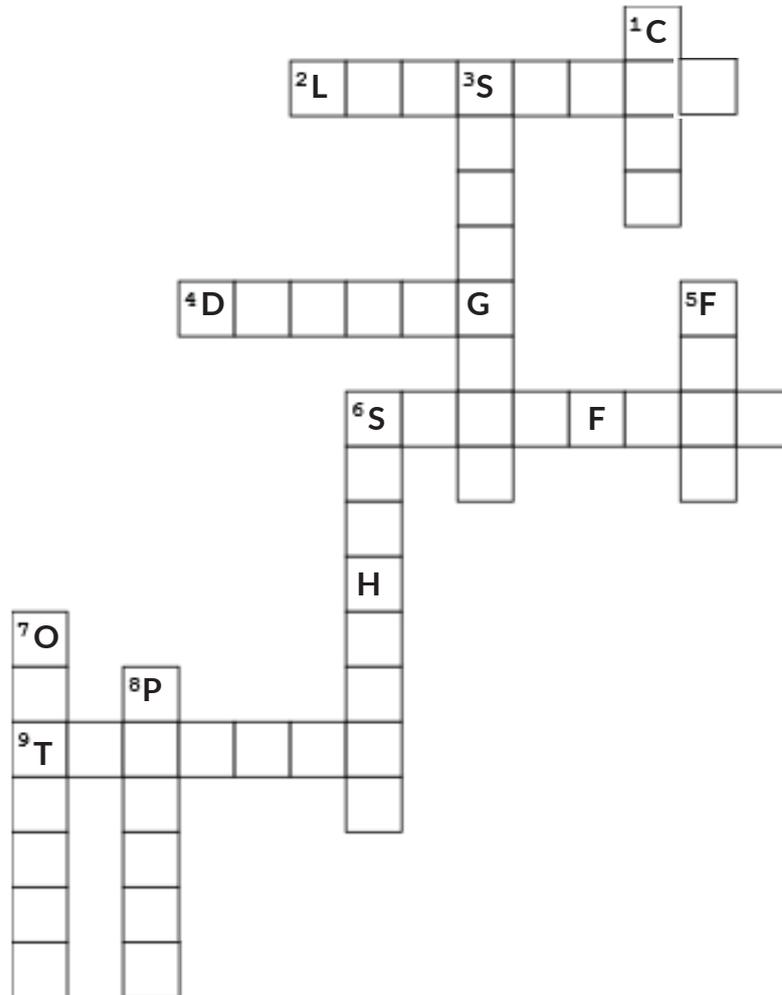


HOME FOR MARINE SPECIES

The ocean is full of interesting sea animals.
They are all different in how they look and how they function.

Can you figure out which animals are being described below?

Crossword generated ©crosswordlab.com



ACROSS

2. They are related to prawns and crabs. They have big claws and long antennae, and their bodies are covered with a hard shell. When alive they are dark brown, but turn red when cooked.
4. A large mammal which is sometimes referred to as a seacow. In Seychelles, they are mostly found in the Aldabra waters.
6. Invertebrates with no backbones and five arms and they can come in different colours.
9. Reptiles with hard shells who live on land and in the sea.

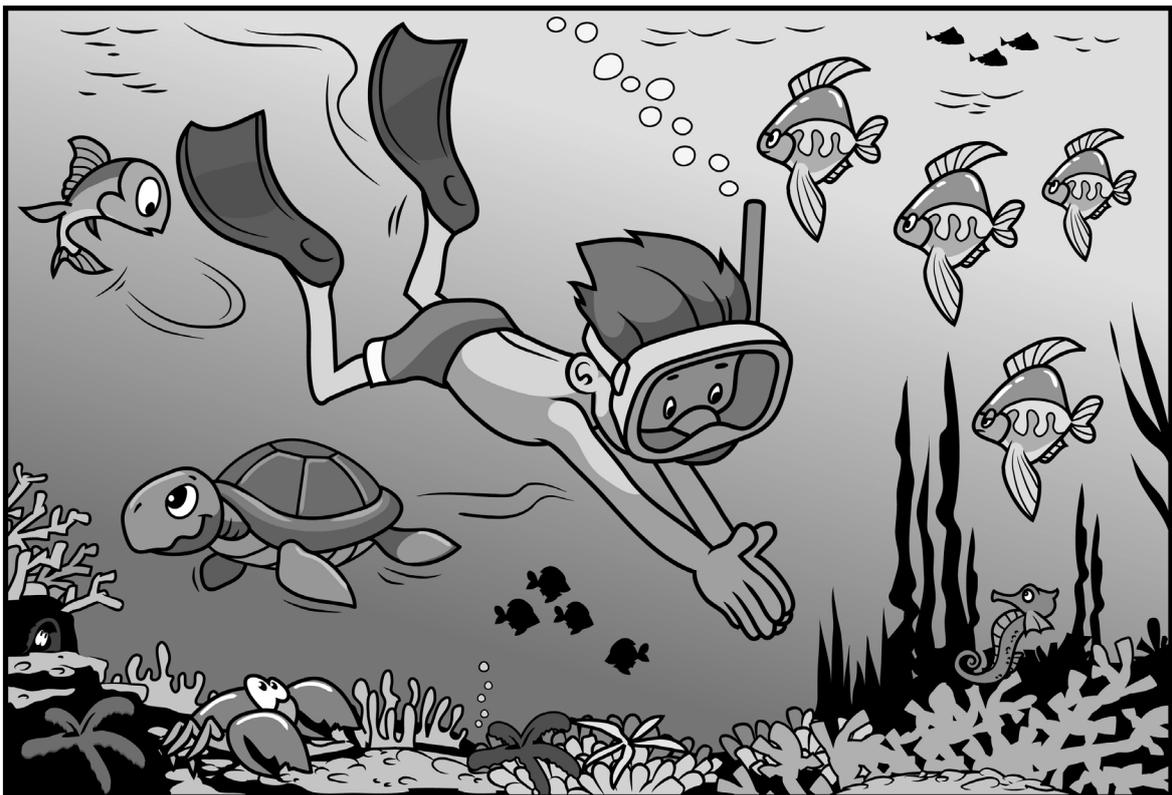
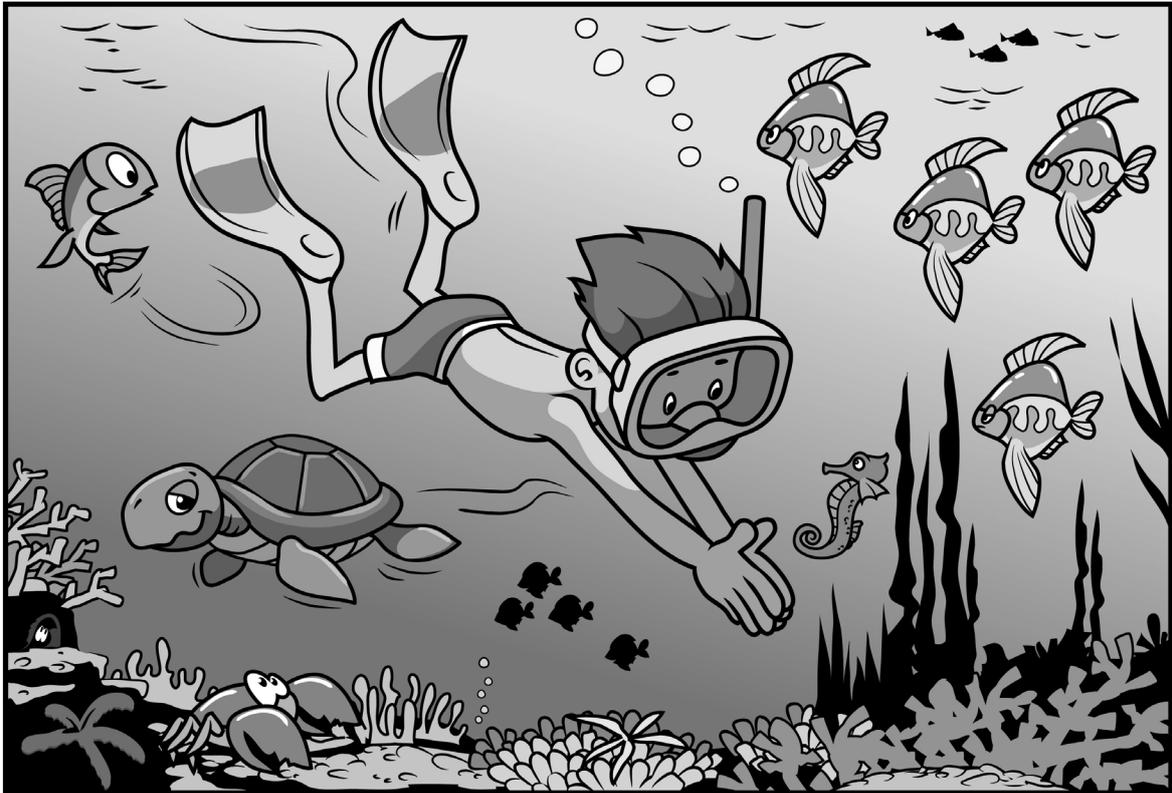
DOWN

1. It has 10 legs and walk sideways. Its claws can sometimes be scary!
3. To swim, it moves its rounded body in a wavy motion that propels it through the water.
5. An animal which lives and breathes in water. They have fins and scales.
6. Small fish that is named for the shape of its head, which looks like the head of a tiny horse.
7. Sea animals famous for their rounded bodies, bulging eyes, and eight long arms.
8. When they are alive they are grey or transparent, but turn pink when we cook them to eat!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

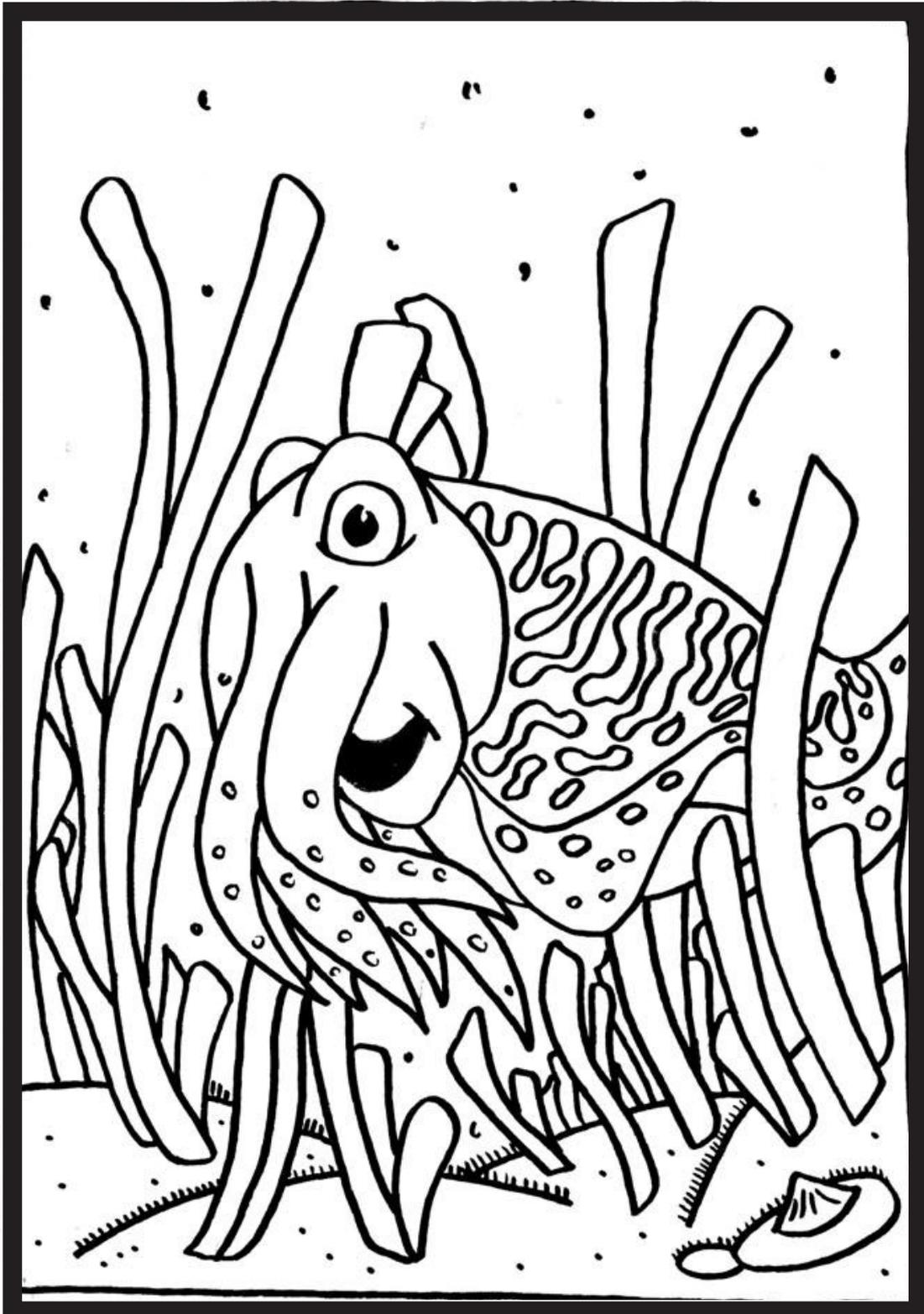
Seagrass monitoring is one way in which scientists learn more about seagrasses and discover new species.

There are ten things which are different between the two images below - can you spot them?



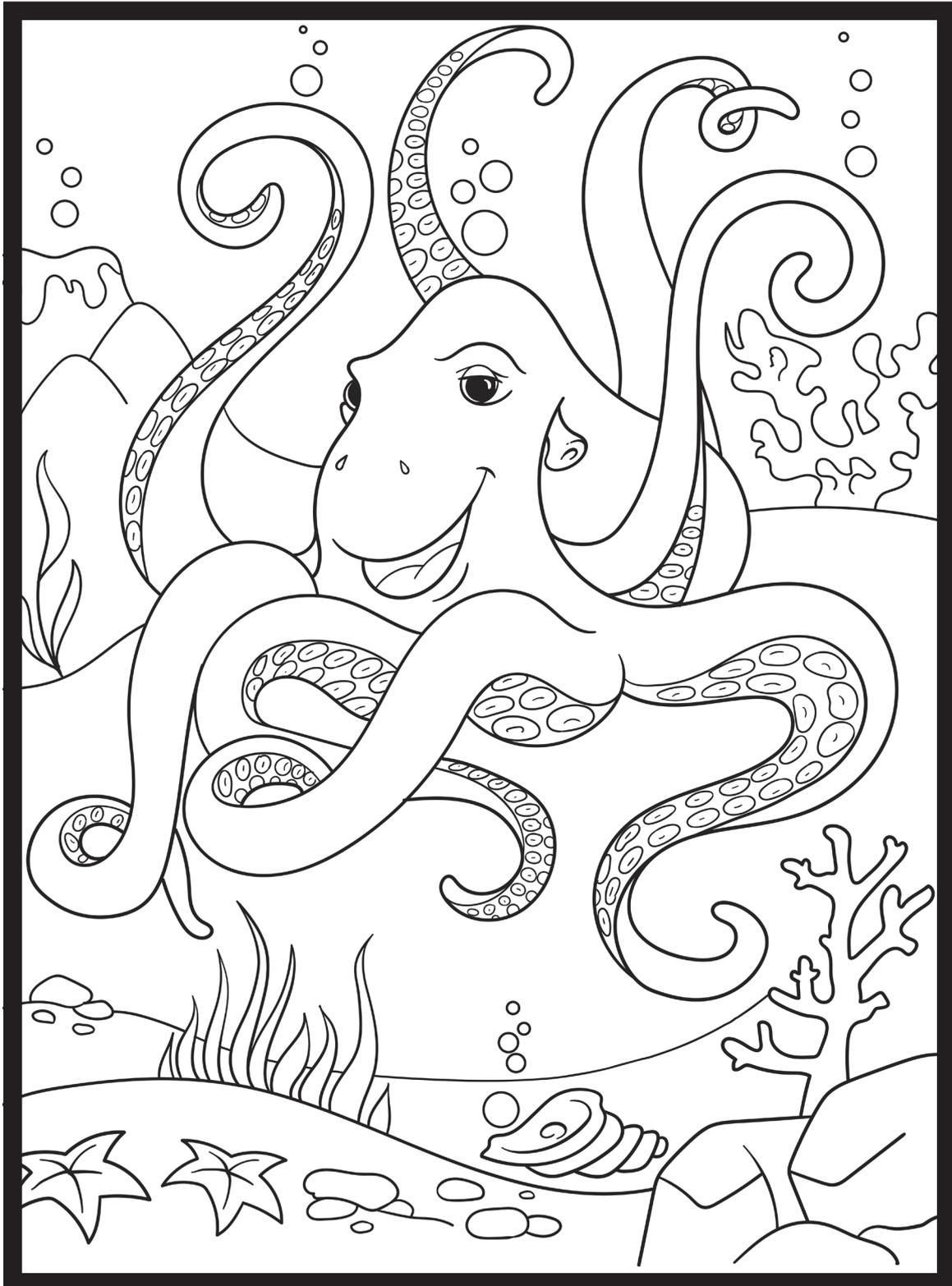
CUTTLEFISH COLOUR IN

Cuttlefish are related to octopus and squid. They have eight tentacles and two 'suckers' that they use to capture food. They eat small marine animals such as prawns and small crustaceans, and sometimes even eat other cuttlefish. Some cuttlefish lay their eggs in seagrass so that their babies have a safe place to grow up amongst the seagrass leaves. Cuttlefish are capable of changing their colour to blend in with their surroundings and escape predators, or when they want to communicate with other cuttlefish.



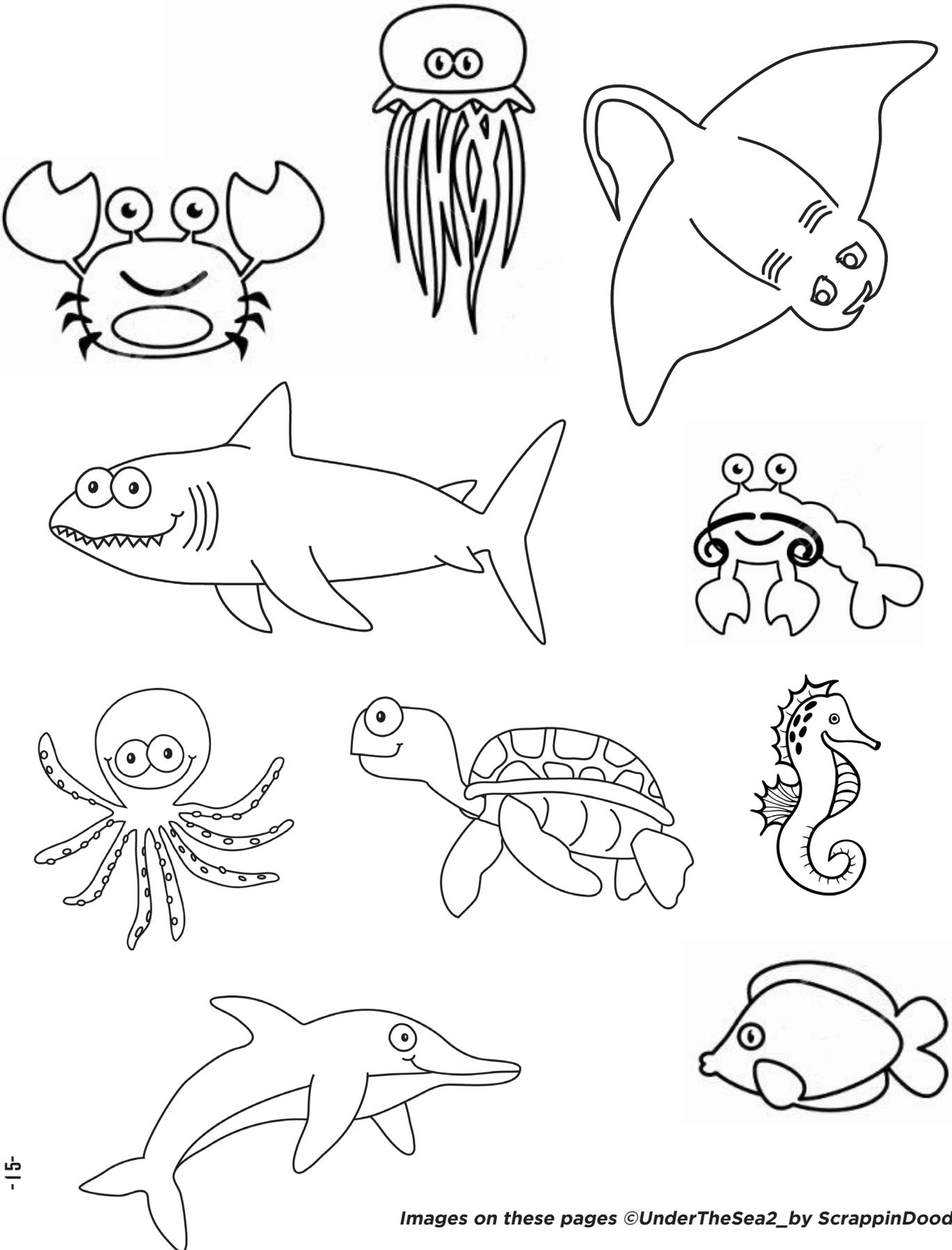
OCTOPUS COLOUR IN

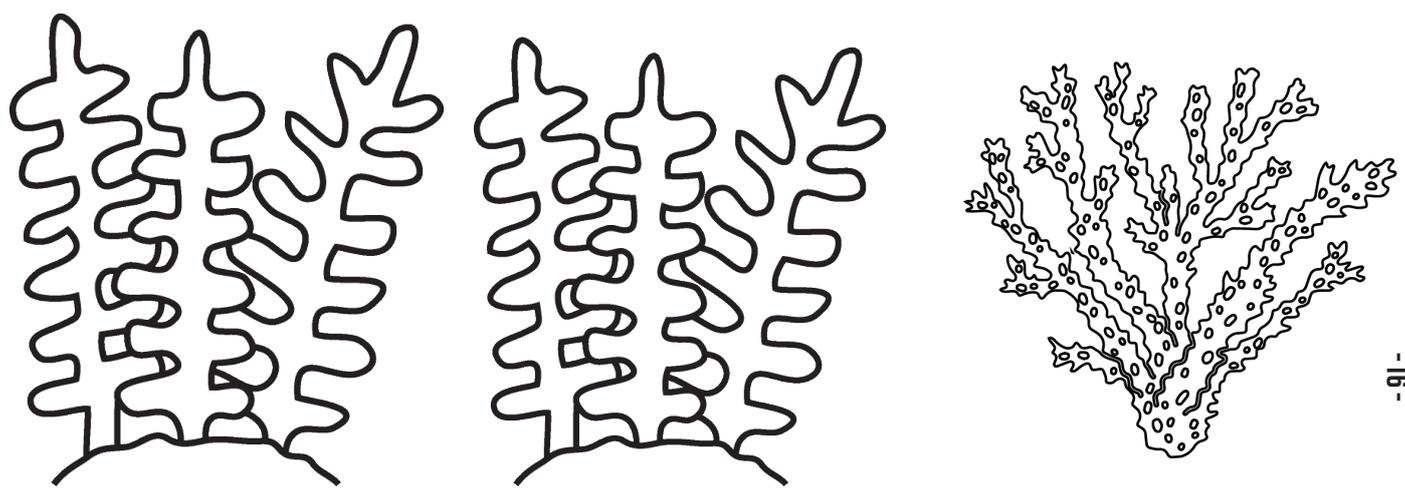
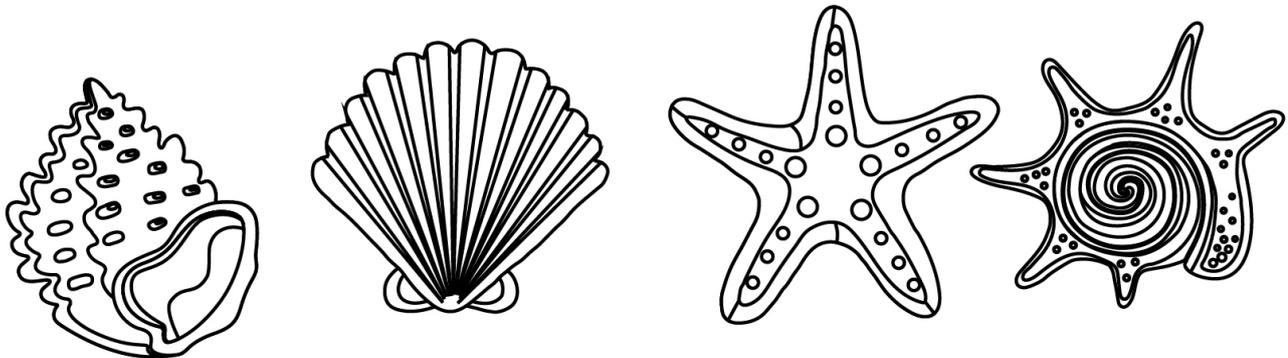
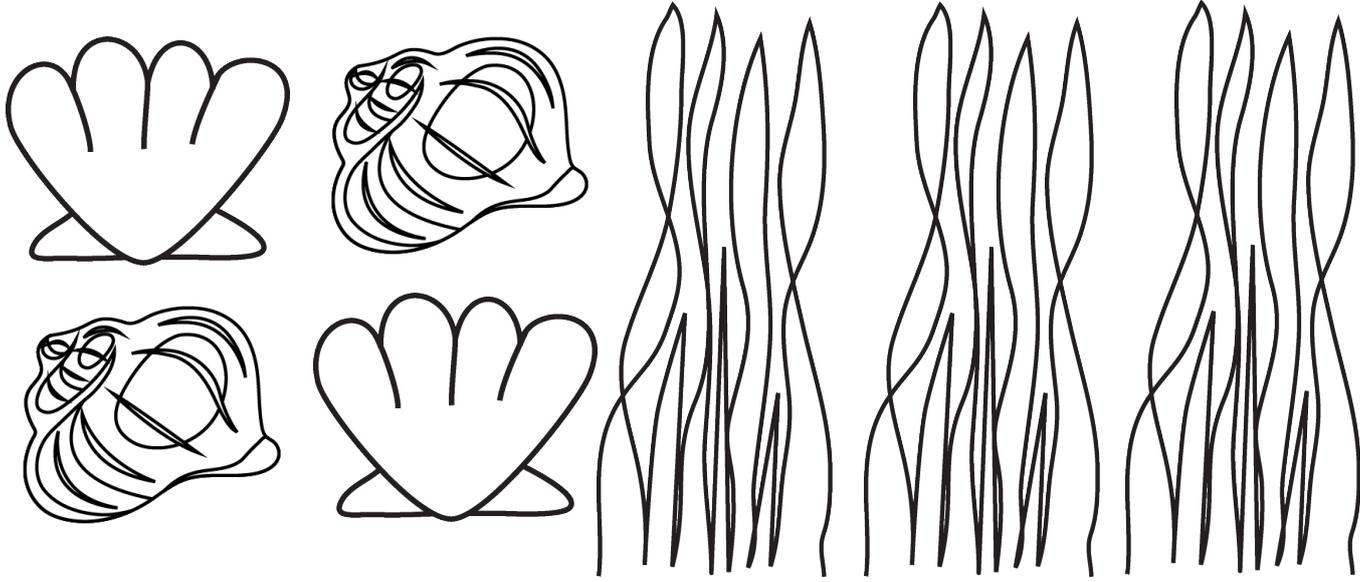
How easy it is to identify an octopus! Octopuses are sea animals famous for their rounded bodies, bulging eyes and of course, their eight long arms. They can be found in oceans all over the world, but they do love warm, tropical waters, like we have in Seychelles. Did you know that they can also hide and blend in with their surroundings? They can change their colour to grey, brown, pink, blue or green. Impressive stuff!



UNDER THE SEA POSTER

Colour and cut out the different forms of marine creatures and plants below (and the next page) and create your own underwater world!





SAVE OUR PLANET MESSAGE

Protecting our oceans is one way of protecting our planet.
What else must we do to keep our planet safe and healthy?
Write your messages down on the empty posters.



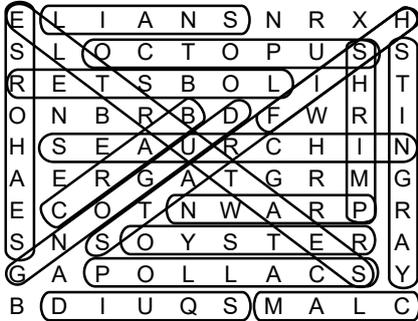
SOLUTIONS

Page 5

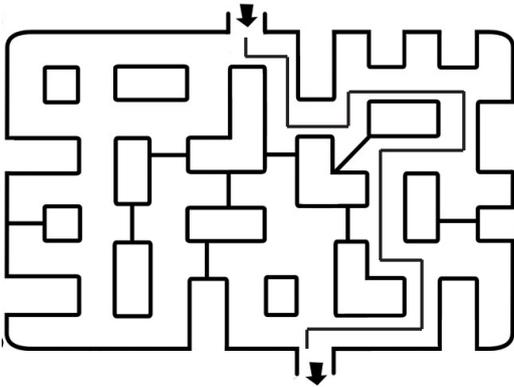
From top to bottom: DEACB

Page 6

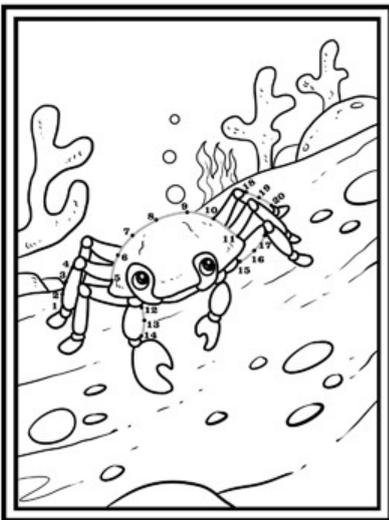
A home for marine species (word find)



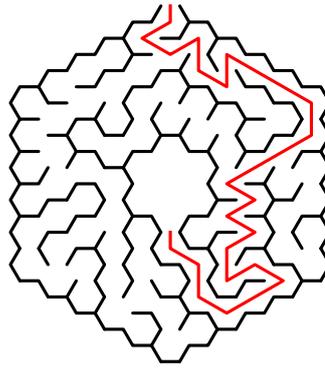
Page 7 Lobster Maze



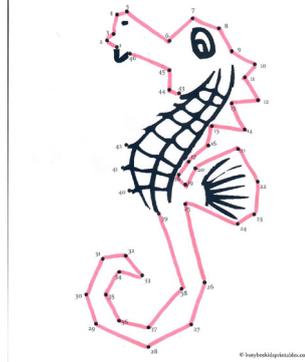
Page 8 Crab - Connect The Dot



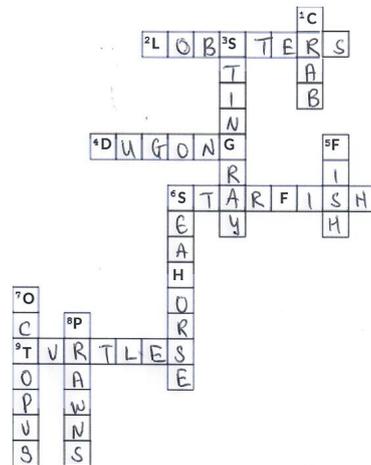
Page 9 Green Sea Turtle Maze



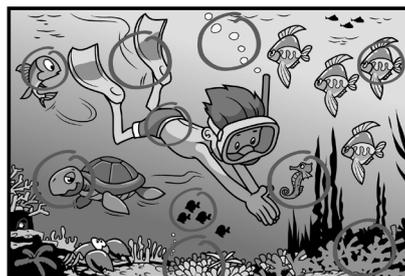
Page 10 Seahorse Connect The Dot



Page 11 Home for Marine Species (Crossword)



Page 12 Spot The Difference





SEYCHELLES CONSERVATION
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TRUST

SeyCCAT

www.seyccat.org

This booklet was produced for use in the local context of the Republic of Seychelles, but was inspired by, and some pages were adapted from other source materials.

These sources include:

- “**Seagrass-Watch Activity Books**” available on www.seagrasswatch.org (page 6)
- “**Common Wild Plants of the Seychelles Coastal Lowlands**” by Katy Beaver (pages 2, 3 & 4)
- www.activitywizo.com (pages 7 & 8)
- www.busybeekidsprintables.com (page 10)
- www.projectseagrass.org (page 13)
- www.shutterstock.com (cover page, pages 5, 12, 14 & 17)
- www.busybeekidsprintables.com (page 10)
- UnderTheSea2** by **ScrappinDoodles** (page 15 & 16)
- www.mazegenerator.net (page 9)
- www.crosswordlabs.com (page 11)

The local Seychellois production team included:

- Marie-France Watson (Design)
- Dr Jeanne A Mortimer (Consulting Scientist)
- Annike Faure (Project Manager)



THE COASTAL WETLANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT