

# The beach is alive!





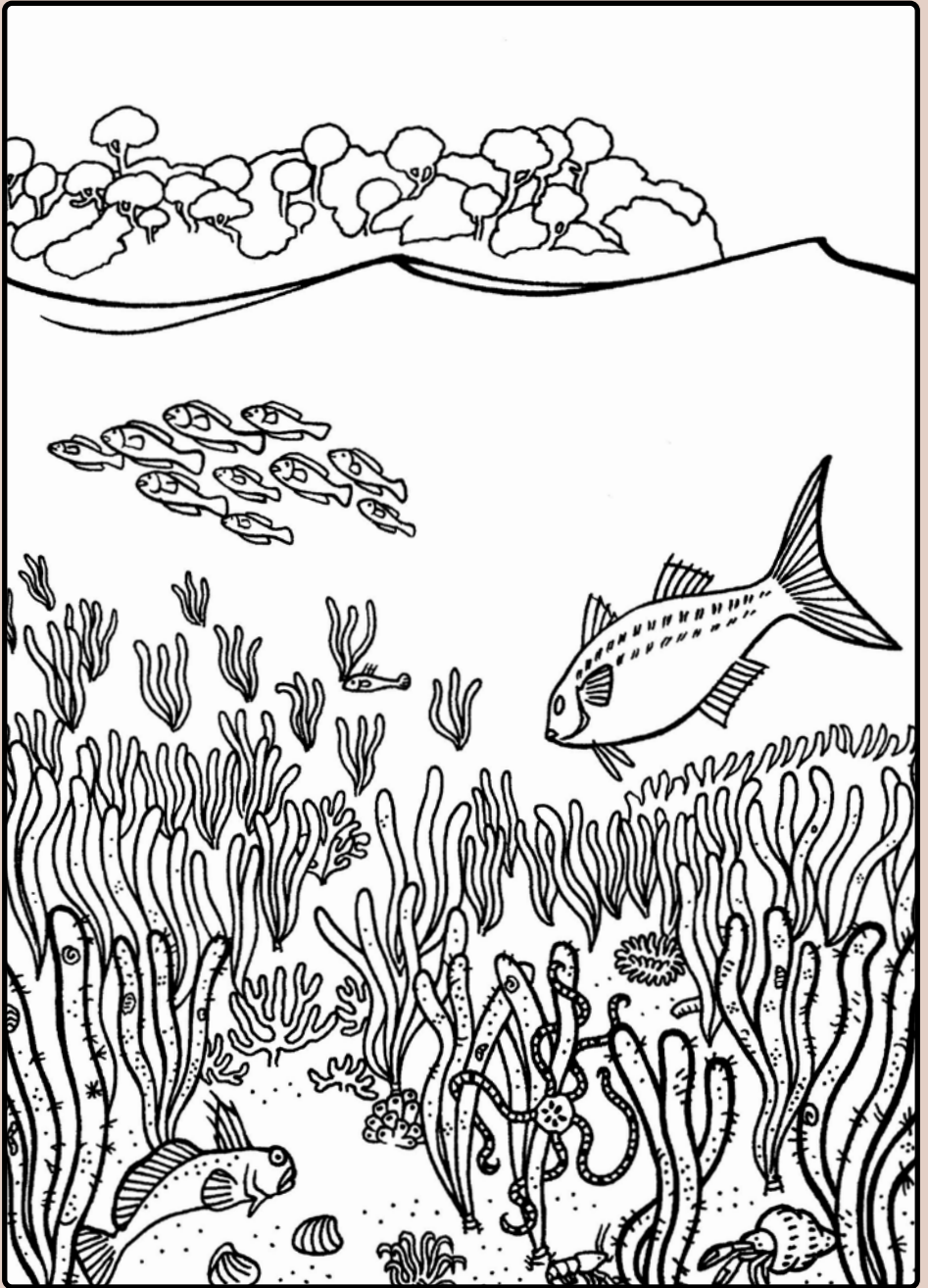
# Once upon time,,,

There was a beach teeming with life.

There were fish, cockles, sea urchins, starfish, sea snails, octopuses, crabs, plants and corals living in the sea. And, in the sandy dunes there were lizards, beetles, beautiful flowers called beach lilies, sabina flowers, thistles and lots of birds.

As you can see, there were many inhabitants of the beaches enjoying themselves.





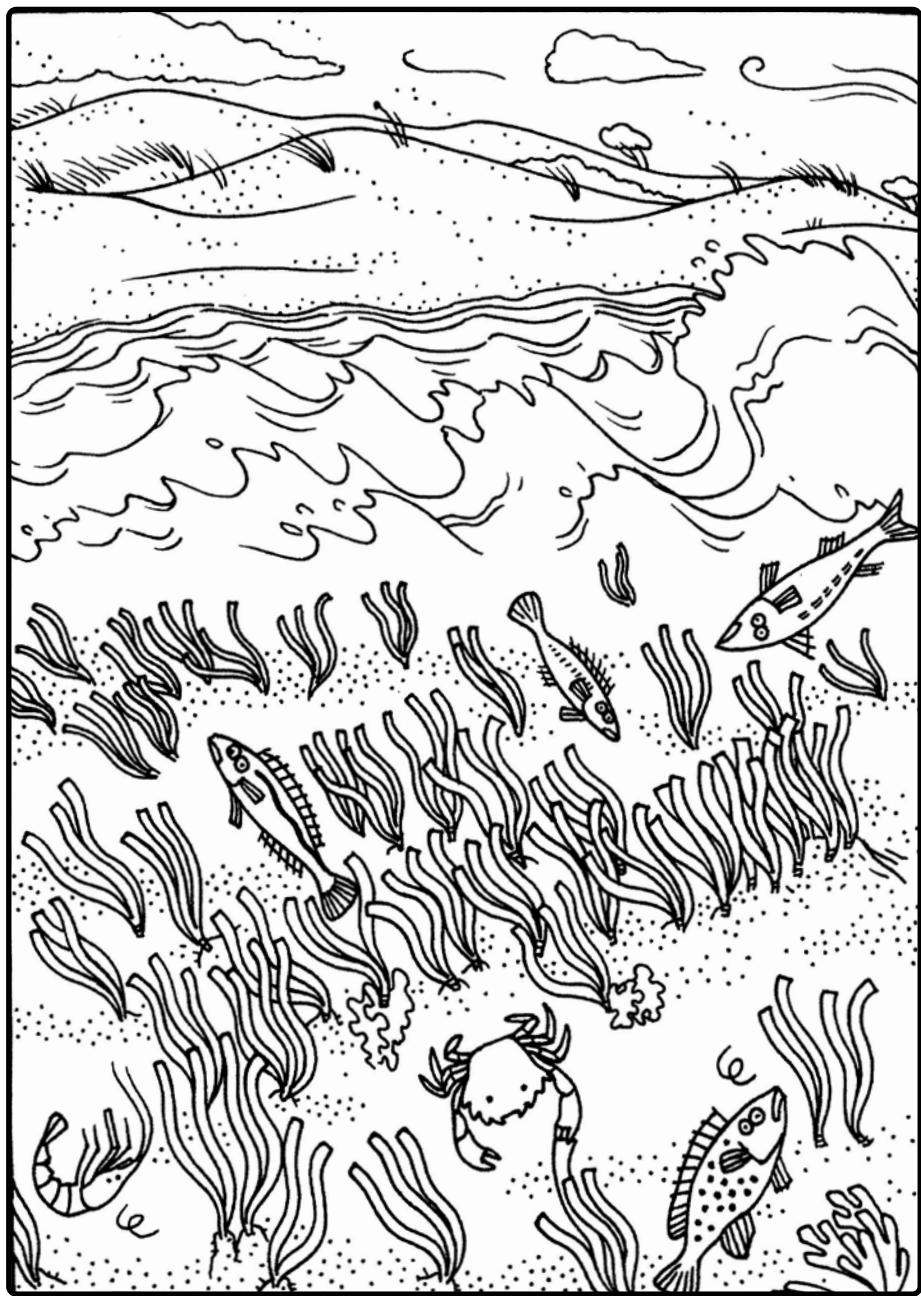
On this beach, all the animals and plants were friends.  
They had a lot to eat and lived peacefully.



By the beach, below the water, there was a meadow.  
Yes, a meadow of posidonia, some people think it is seaweed but this not so. Posidonia is a plant that in the Balearic Islands is known as “Alga”.  
This meadow was very important for the beach.

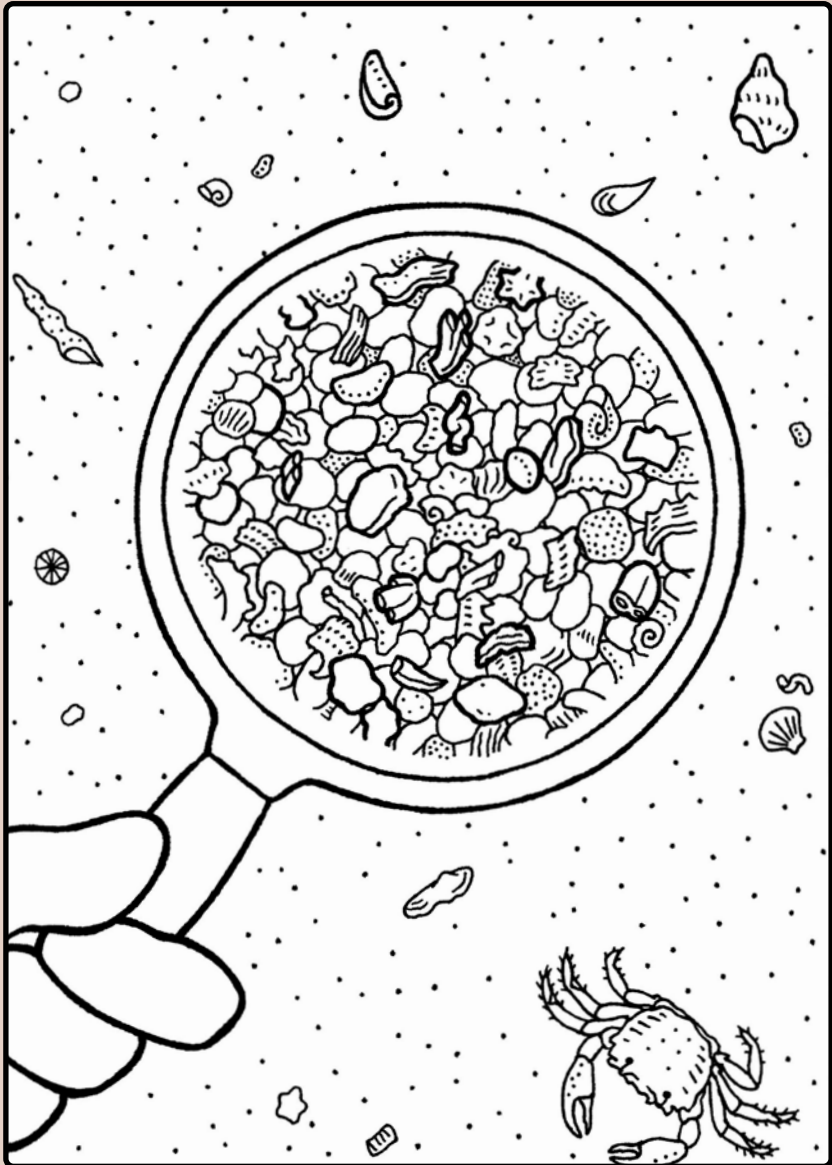


The animals found refuge  
in it and lots of food.



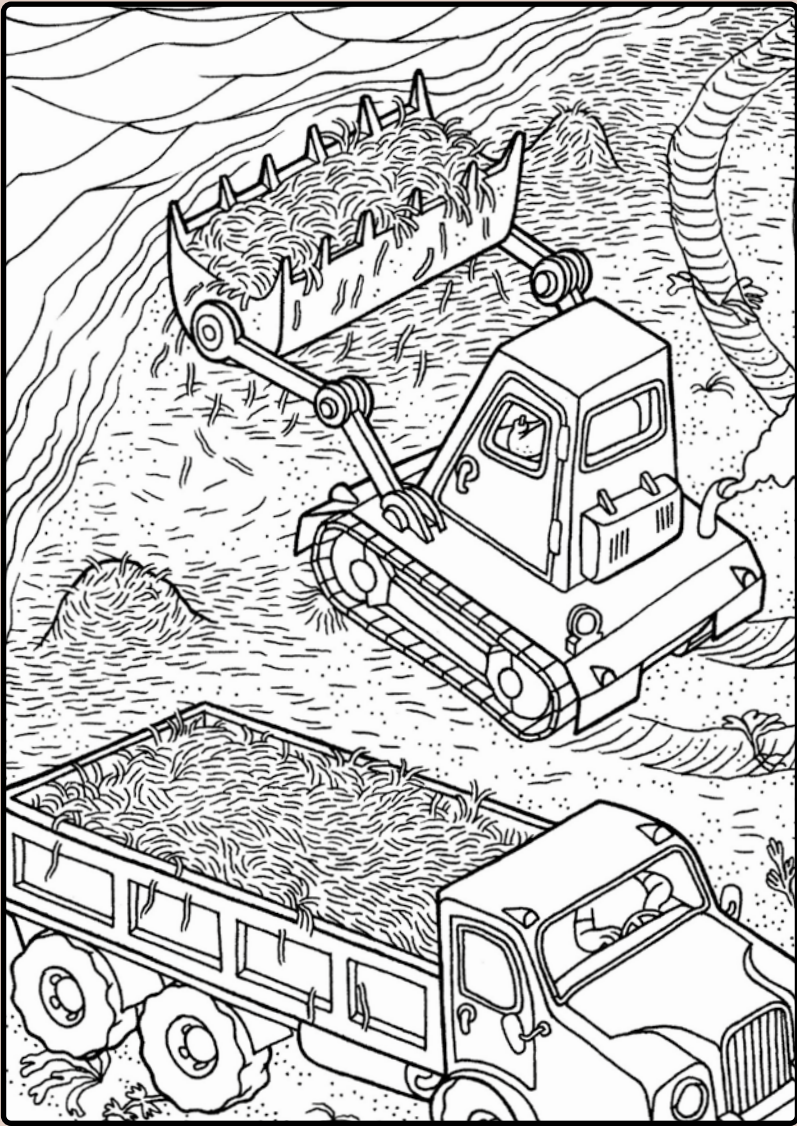
The beach loved its friend the posidonia very much because, not only was it a home and a refuge for many of the animals, but also because when it came onto the beach and its leaves dried, it protected the sand against the strong storms.

“And the sand? Where did it come from?” you will ask yourselves. What is it made from? Let us have a look. Bits of shells, sea urchins, rocks... also, posidonia leaves filled with tiny animals, combine to make up nearly all the sand on the beaches of the Balearic Islands.



Incredible! Isn't it?

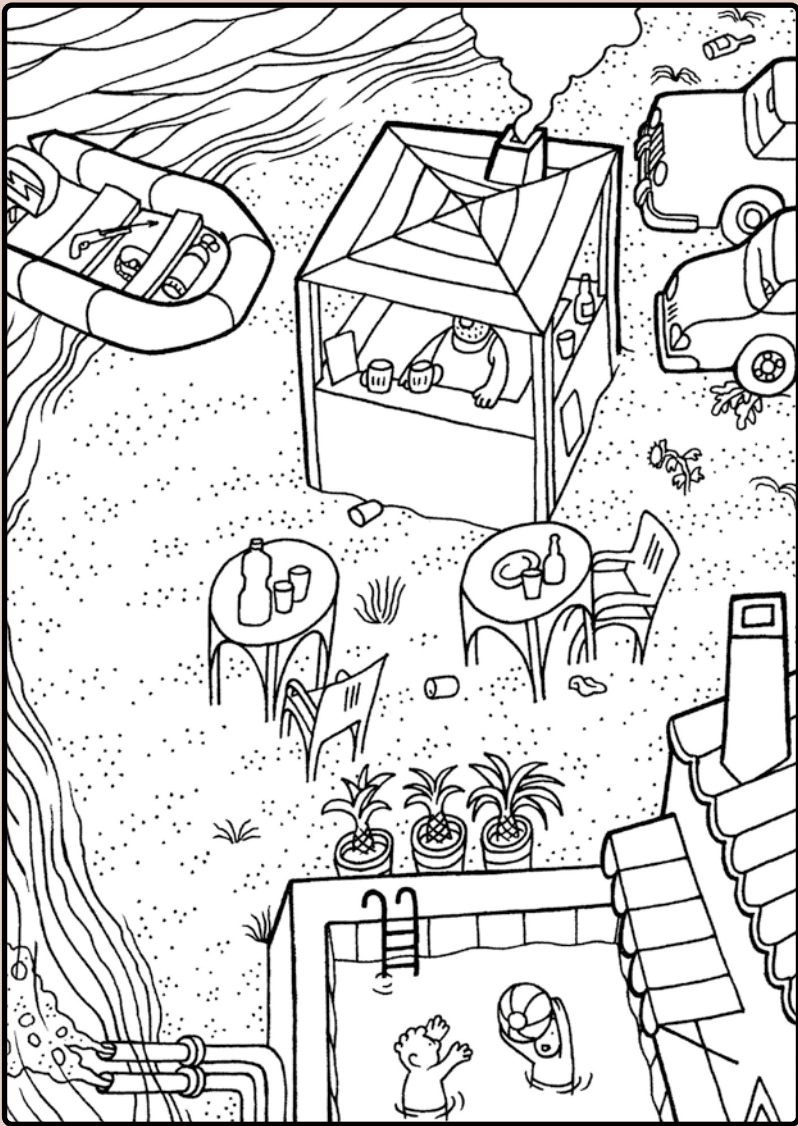




Then, one day, some very large and heavy machines came to the beach to take away all the posidonia covering the sand. The beach became very sad because not only did the machines trample over the plants in the dunes, but they left her without her protective shield against the strong storms.

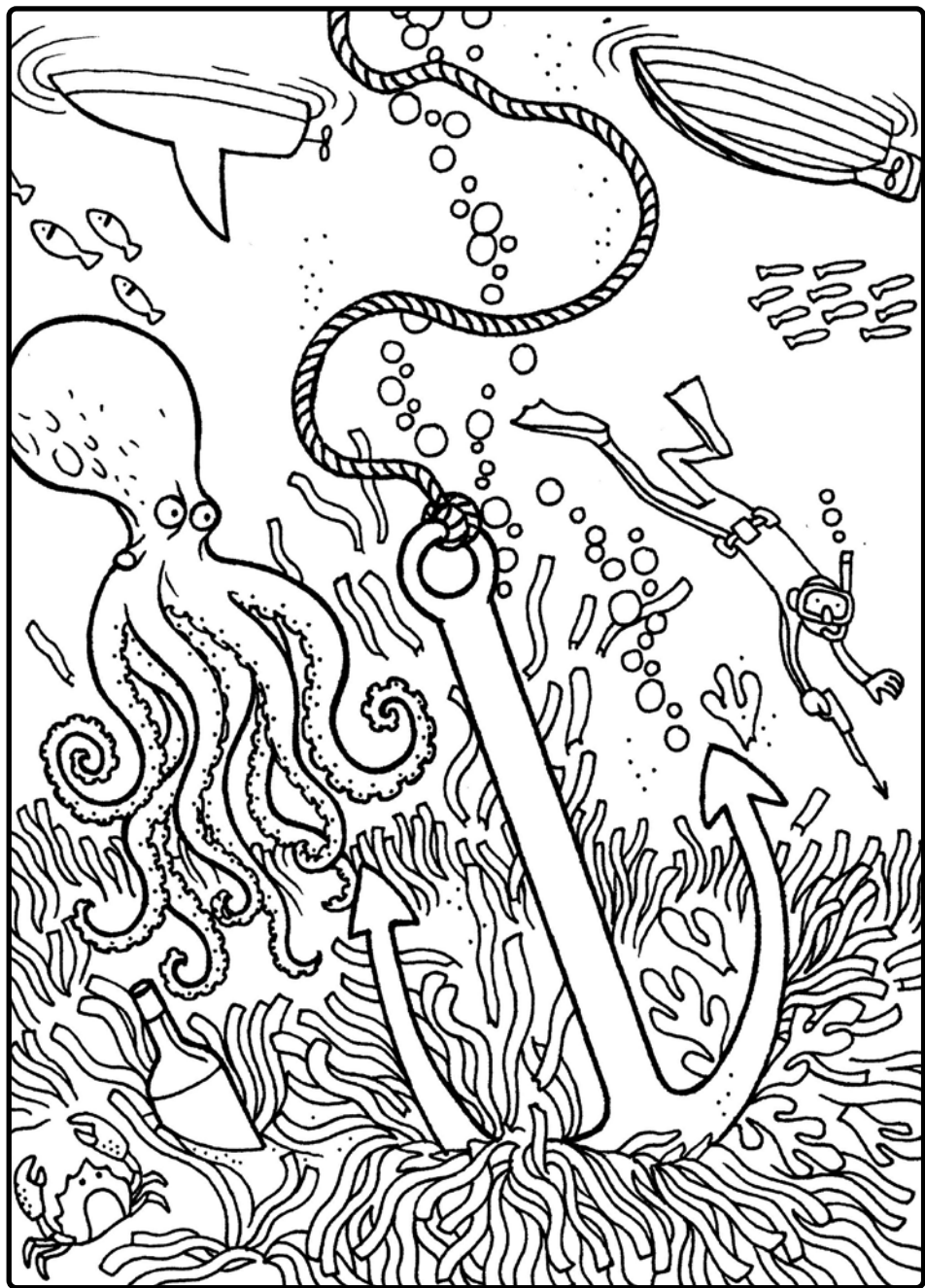






Once the machines had left taking the beach's friend the posidonia, many people began to arrive. These people loved to swim and play on the beach and then they started to build houses and hotels, even on the beach itself. The people who came to swim, often made everything dirty, throwing things into the sea and leaving rubbish when they left. Each time that happened the beach was very sad.





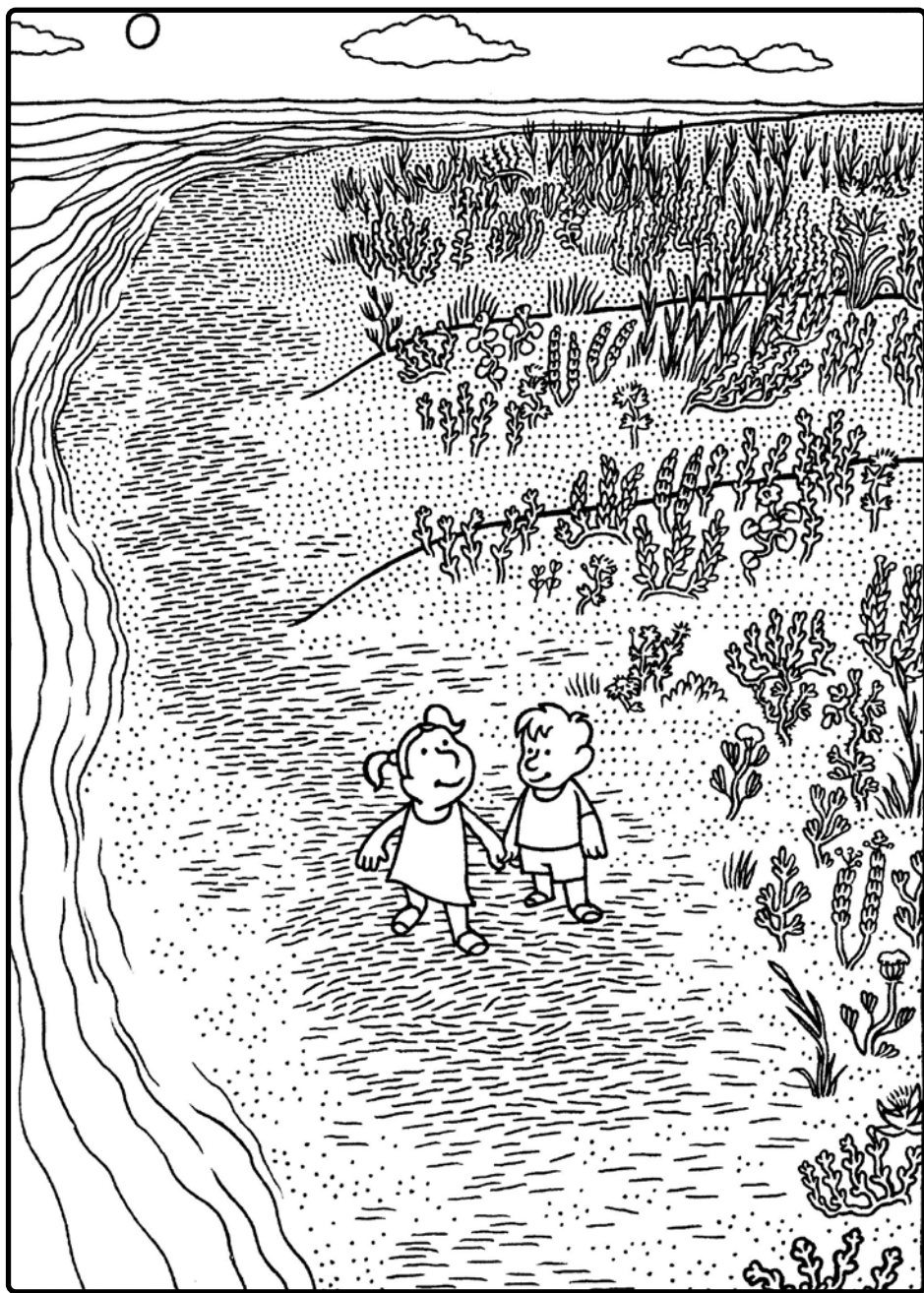
Posidonia forests suffered constant impacts... and,  
each time, the sea was much dirtier.

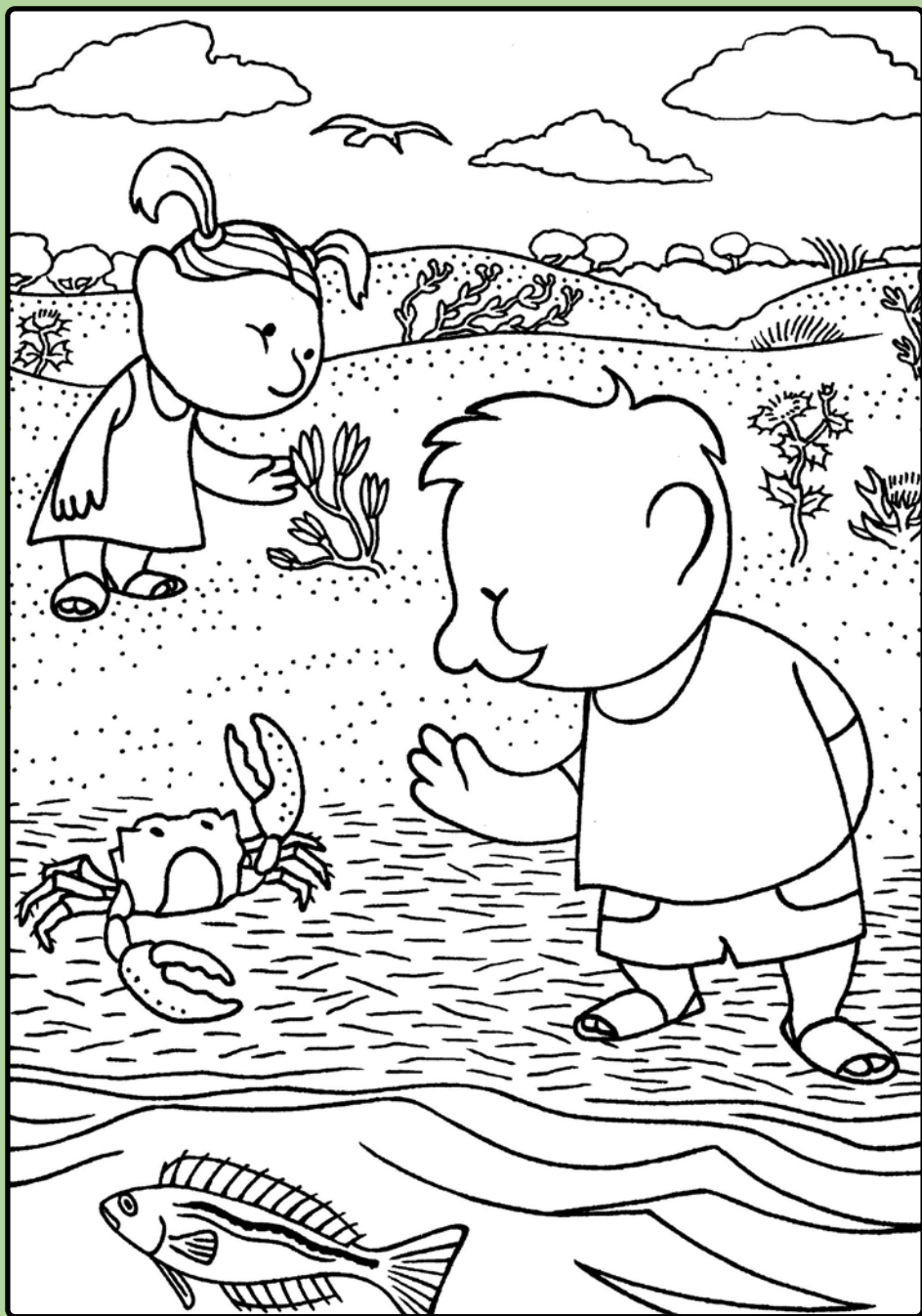


But one day, all the beach's friends: the crabs, the fish, the cockles, the sea urchins, the sea turtles, the dune plants, the beetles, the lizards... decided to help their friend and organized a rally to explain to people that if they continued in this way, they would be left with no beach forever.

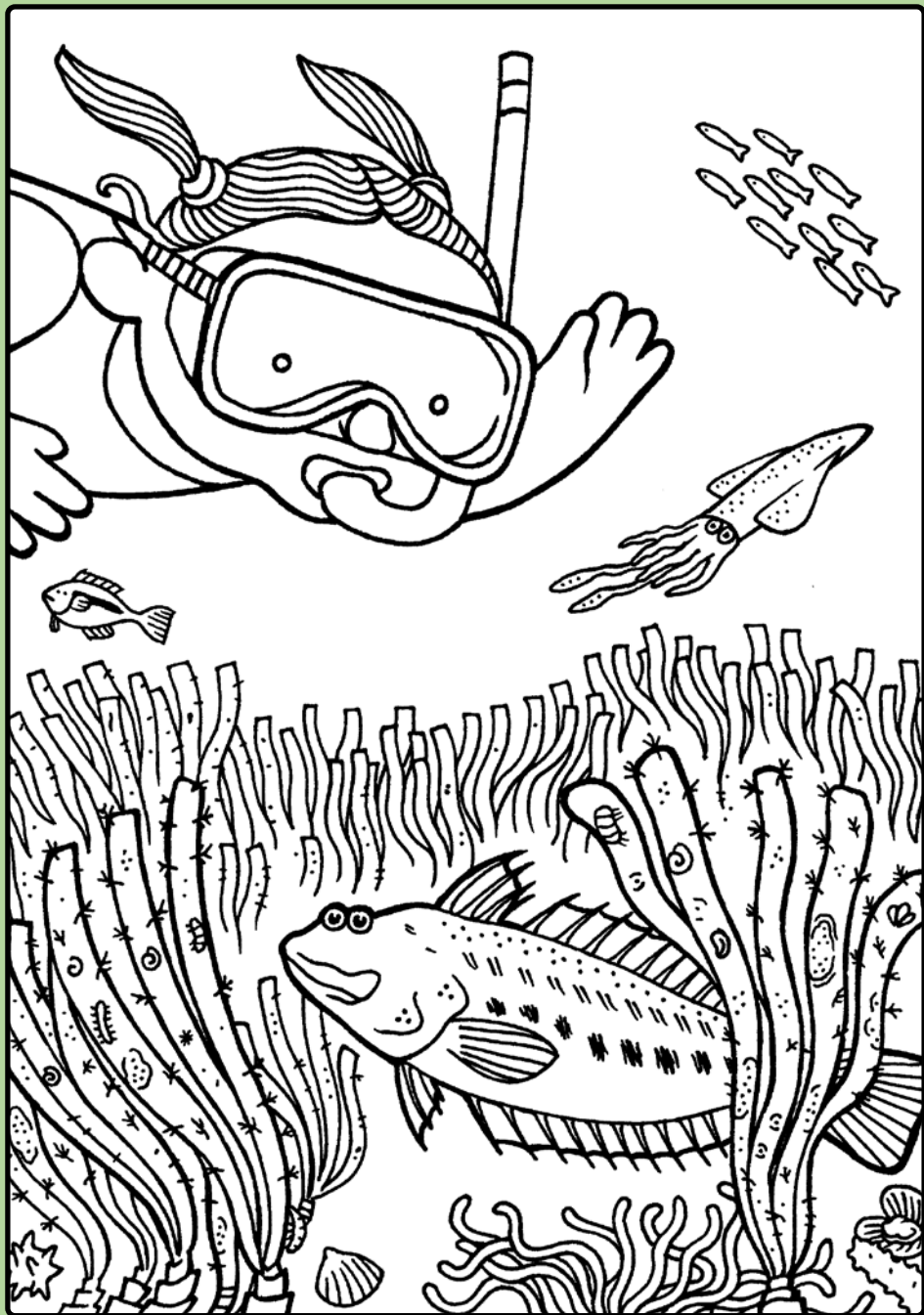


When everyone understood that all the inhabitants of the beaches (sand, plants, animals and especially the posidonia) were so important, they began to look after them. They thought that it would be very boring to be left without beaches, **which are such fun places!**





RESPECT THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS  
LIVING ON THE BEACHES, THEY ARE A PART  
OF OUR WORLD.



ABOVE ALL, RESPECT THE POSIDONIA, WITHOUT  
IT WE COULD BE LEFT WITHOUT BEACHES.





The huge crowds at the seaside in the summer and their demands as well as economic interests, mean that some of the activities taking place on beaches, on the seabed or in the dunes can directly affect the future of their conservation.

Listed below are some of the initiatives we can put into practice on the beaches that are very important:

- Avoid anchoring over the posidonia meadows.
- Avoid throwing waste from boats.
- Respect all the animals and plants living at the seaside.
- Avoid treading on the vegetation in the dunes.
- Use car parks in a civil way.
- Do not throw cigarette ends, nor rubbish onto the beach nor into the sea.
- Do not camp nor light fires.
- Do not make demands for services on the beaches (showers, snack bars...).
- Do not take pets to the beach.
- Try not to be noisy.
- Do not walk over the dunes.
- Never leave a bag of rubbish on the beach.
- As users of the beach, do not demand the removal of the posidonia leaves. Many people still do not understand the value of these plants (for every kilo of posidonia removed, we lose 2 kilos of sand).
- Before leaving the beach, shake the sand out of towels and shoes. Leave the sand on the beach. Each one of us is capable of taking 30 grams of sand, nearly the same amount that one square meter of posidonia produces annually.

«BIG CHANGES ARE THE SUM  
OF LITTLE ACTIONS»  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

- POSIDONIA IS NOT WASTE.
- DO NOT DIRTY THE BEACHES.
- RESPECT THE ANIMALS AND THE PLANTS  
THAT LIVE ON THE BEACHES.
- TAKE AWAY EVERYTHING YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU.



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O MEDI AMBIENT  
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