# Hello, Ocean Friends!

Meet Spottie and other amazing animals under the sea who need your help!



### Welcome to the Ocean!

Hello! I am Spottie the seahorse! What is your name?

I live in the ocean with many interesting friends. What is your favourite ocean animal?

My ocean friends and I are very excited to meet you! We have an important mission and we think you can help us. Let us find out what it is!

### A NOTE FROM DR LENA CHAN

Hi children.

Marine waters cover more than 70% of the surface of the Earth! Although Singapore is a small island, we are a City in Nature with many fascinating marine organisms living in the seas around us.

I would like to introduce you to 12 awesome ocean friends, including Spottie the seahorse. They are important to us because they help to clean our coastal and marine environments, produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide. However, some of the things we do are hurting them, like littering the marine environment, overfishing and collecting them from the wild. Find out more about marine organisms, and how important they are for our survival and quality of life.

Let us work together to responsibly conserve the marine environment, for our friends to thrive safely in their homes.

Enjoy your journey of discovery!

Your friend in conservation. Lena Chan International Biodiversity Conservation Division National Parks Board



### **Ocean Teamwork!**

In the ocean, we need one another. We are like a team!

### Some of us are homes for other animals

The sea star hides crabs and shrimps so that they are safe from predators.





#### Some of us make food for others

Algae that live in anemones produce food to share with the anemones!

### Some of us help to keep each other and the surroundings clean

The sea cucumber keeps the ocean tidy by eating dirt, sand and plankton with its sticky tentacles. (Just like a vacuum cleaner!)



As a team, we have a mission to protect the ocean because it is the only home we have. Will you join our team on this mission?

# **Meet Your New Friends**



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#### **Hawksbill Turtle**

"You may see me one day, as I visit the beaches of Singapore to lay my eggs. I have a beautiful brown shell with yellow and orange patches."



#### **Black Cardinalfish**

"I am small with a rounded tail and fins. One of the fins on my back has a special spot!"



#### **Estuarine Seahorse**

"I like to swim in a pair with another seahorse. Spot us with our tails linked together – just like holding hands! To escape predators, we change colours to look like the plants we are hiding in."

Remember to always be kind to our marine friends. If you do encounter these animals on the beach, please do not touch, move or disturb them.

### Before we embark on our ocean mission, let us get to know one another better!



#### **Knobbly Sea Star**

"The spots on my body look like chocolate chips. But don't be fooled, I can be a deadly predator! I push my stomach out through my mouth to digest food outside of my body. I am one of Singapore's largest sea stars."



#### Sea Apple Sea Cucumber

"I look like an apple but do not try to eat or touch me! When stressed, I release poison. My body is colourful with red, purple and yellow shades."



#### **Giant Carpet Anemone**

"My large, round body is covered with short tentacles, which makes me look like a carpet! I can live for 100 years or more. I am also a home for many marine animals. They hide in me to avoid being eaten by others!"





#### **Horseshoe Crab**

"I am actually not a crab but related to spiders and scorpions. My species has been on Earth for some 220 million years – even before dinosaurs existed! I use my long tail to move around and flip my body when I am upside down."



#### **Red Egg Crab**

"When I was young I had a white ring around the edge of my egg-shaped body, making me look like a pancake! I am very poisonous. I move slowly and hide under large coral pieces."



#### **Sea Slater**

"I look like a cockroach, but I am not an insect at all. I am a crustacean, which is the same group as crabs and prawns. I am easily surprised by small movements and get nervous!"



#### **Lined Chromodoris Nudibranch**

"I look like I am wearing a striped suit. My body has a bright yellow-orange outline. I have special organs known as rhinophores which help me to smell food. My favourite snack? Sea sponges!"



#### **Chameleon Nerite Snail**

"I love hanging out with friends! You can find me in large groups on rocky shores. Contrary to my name, I do not change colour like the reptiles known as chameleons!"



#### **Ovum Cowrie**

"I am pretty and pear-shaped. I like to hide under stones, but if you find me, please do not take me away from my home. My shell is blue with speckles and three light-brown bands."

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### **Protect Your Ocean Friend**

Now that you have met your ocean team, our mission begins! Can you guess the animal below before connecting the dots?



When observing marine animals, avoid touching, disturbing or moving them out of the water, which will cause them to suffocate.

# **Guide the Lost Turtles**

Oh no! Hawksbill Turtle babies just born on the sandy beach are struggling to find the sea! Can you show them the way?



With the help of the moonlight, these babies head to the sea to begin their lives. However, urban lights often confuse them. We hope that humans can conserve the natural environment as much as possible for our ocean friends to survive.

# **Clear the Beach Litter**



Ouch! Did I bump into something? It smells strange ... It tastes funny ... It is ... plastic! Sadly, our ocean home is becoming more polluted with litter.

We need your help to place the litter into the correct bins. Paste each litter sticker above the proper bin below.





Litter makes our ocean teammates ill. We accidentally eat or touch the litter, which can poison us. When you recycle and reduce your use of resources, you help to protect our ocean friends and the Earth.

## Save the Trapped Animals

**A** 

Emergency! Some teammates are tangled in nets and other litter and may die. Rescue them fast by spotting and circling the dangerous items to remove.



Litter comes in many forms and can harm the ocean environment. Keep the ocean clean so that our ocean friends can lead healthy lives.

### Colour Your Marine World

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Thank you for protecting the ocean. My friends and I are now safe and happy! The ocean is *your* home, too. Here, you can have fun, make friends and discover many things!

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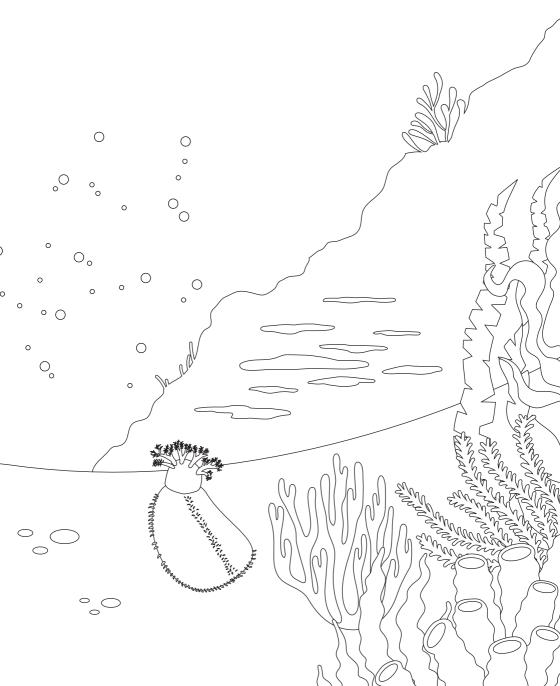
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Create your own ocean home by colouring these pages and pasting your stickers of marine life.



## **Keep the Ocean Blue**

Hey teammate, we need you, just like how marine organisms depend on one another to survive.

Find the five underlined words, which are actions you can take to help us and protect our home.

**CLEAN** up the beach when you are there: Put litter into the bin.

Practise the 3Rs: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

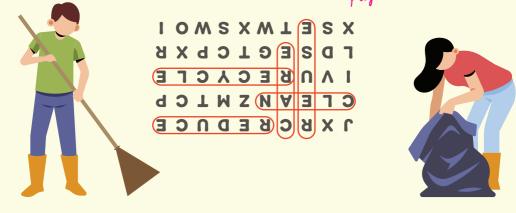
**CARE** for the environment: Bring your own bags and bottles, and say no to plastic.







### KEEP THE OCEAN BLUE Page 13



### **Marine Conservation in Singapore**

As a City in Nature, Singapore is home to rich marine biodiversity! Despite being a small city, we have more than 250 species of hard corals, more than 100 species of reef fishes, about 200 species of sponges and 12 seagrass species living in our waters.

The Sisters' Islands Marine Park was set up to conserve a variety of habitats including coral reefs, sandy shores and seagrass areas. Located near to one of the busiest ports in the world, the Marine Park provides a refuge for our marine biodiversity, and a platform for conservation, outreach, education and research activities. It is important to safeguard our natural heritage within our waters for the benefit of future generations.

#### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CITY IN NATURE, SCAN HERE:



#### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SISTERS' ISLANDS MARINE PARK, SCAN HERE:







In partnership with:



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The Garden City Fund works with corporations, organisations and individuals to cultivate a sense of ownership and encourage the community to play its part in preserving Singapore's legacy as a lush and vibrant City in Nature.