



RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary school aged children

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English; Visual Literacy; Art
- **General capabilities:** Critical and creative thinking; Ethical understanding; Literacy; Numeracy; Personal and social capability

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To develop language, literacy and creative skills
- To explore our relationship with the ocean and marine wildlife
- To identify ways in which we could show our love for the sea in ways that protect and conserve our oceans.

THEMES

- Friendship
- Marine wildlife
- Conservation threats and solutions

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and the Australian Marine Conservation Society

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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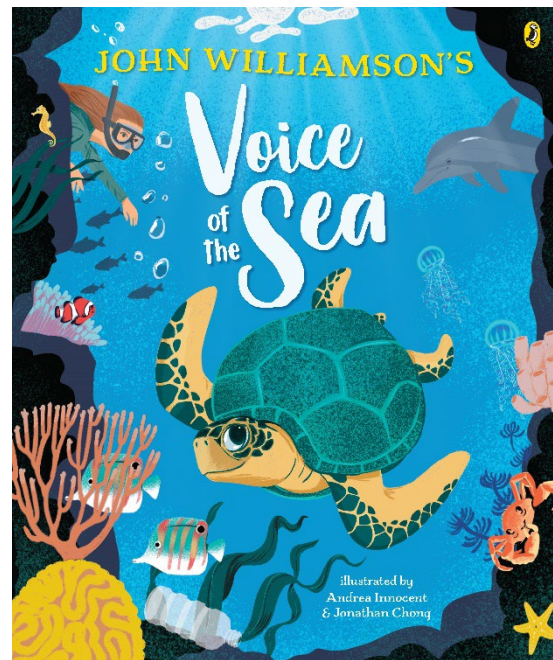
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Voice of the Sea

John Williamson

Illustrated by

Andrea Innocent & Jonathan Chong



PLOT SUMMARY

We love our sandy beaches, our jewel seas and reefs brim with life. But our precious oceans are in trouble, and we all need to become part of the voice to save them!

A sea turtle guides the reader through a journey following Australians' love of the ocean. The story personifies the ocean as a friend and addresses the audience through second person narration. It explores our love for the ocean and the many challenges our oceans and marine life face, prompting the reader to consider how we may show our love in ways that protect and conserve our beautiful big blue backyard.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Williamson is, without question, an Australian icon. His entertainment career spans more than fifty years, boasting sales of over 5 million albums. His unofficial anthems, funny and tender ballads and tributes to unsung heroes have captured the spirit of the nation in song more than any other performer. He remains one of the most in-demand live performers in Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Andrea Innocent and Jonathan Chong were the joint illustration and animation team who created the music video for the original song, *Voice of the Sea*. It was only logical to also have them illustrate the picture book.

About Andrea Innocent is a professional character designer and illustrator. With a background in fashion and multimedia design, it wasn't until she lived in Japan that she found her true creative love in illustration. In the past 15 years since, she has worked as an illustrator and character designer for various clients and publishers on a wide range of projects and ad campaigns. Innocent also regularly exhibits her work in art galleries and often speaks at conferences or workshops regarding her practice and working in the illustration industry. She juggles parenthood alongside co-owning indie fashion brand Chiba Ghosts with her partner, lecturing on illustration, personal exhibitions and commercial illustration projects. When she's not drawing, you will find her gardening with her young son and snappy Corgis, Pickles McGerkin and Penny Sauce.

About Jonathan Chong: With a background in art and graphic design, Jonathan Chong is known for his work as an animator and designer. Based in Melbourne, Australia, Jonathan's expertise lies in design-driven, handcrafted techniques, including stop-motion animation, paper-craft, and traditional 2D animation. His work spans music videos, short films, commercials and illustrations. Jonathan has designed and illustrated stamps for Australia Post and directed music videos for renowned Australian musicians such as Dan Sultan, John Butler Trio, and John Williamson.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

I was approached by the Australian Marine Conservation Society to help with a song to send a message encouraging Aussies to think about reversing the damage to our ocean life. I responded immediately and, as I was working on a love song at the time, I could see how it would fit in the context of 'loving the sea'. I began to write as the 'voice' of the sea. I am deeply

concerned with the survival of all nature's species and very proud to be involved.

My affinity with the ocean is as strong as my connection to and love for the bush. When I sat down to write about our love for the oceans, I couldn't help but think about all the problems we've caused our seas and their wildlife, even though we say we love them.

Aussies love our oceans but how have we shown that love? By taking and not giving. So the song became an unrequited love song – *where has it gone, your love for me?*

My lyrics reference global warming, overfishing and the risk of losing some of our incredible marine wildlife. It's not too late but we need more people to sing out and be the voices of our seas. That's why I wanted to support the AMCS with this song because they provide Australians with a way to speak out for our seas through their important conservation work.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. This book is called *Voice of the Sea*. What do you think the ocean has to say?
2. Which animals live in the ocean? List as many as you can – you can start with all those on the front cover.
3. Why is it important to look after the ocean and its animals?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Friendship

Questions and activities

- Brainstorm: What do you love about the ocean? In what ways is the ocean your friend?
- How can you show your love for the ocean? Make a list of actions that show you care for the ocean.
- Write a poem about how it feels to swim in the ocean.
- Write a letter to the ocean from your perspective in response to the book.

Marine wildlife

Questions and activities

- Australia's oceans contain the richest, most diverse life on Earth. Our blue waters are home to 328 species of sharks and rays, half of which are found nowhere else in the world.



Conduct research into the sharks and rays nearest to your home. What species exist near you? Are they endangered? Create an informational fact sheet about a local shark or ray.

- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure in the world. In fact, it is so big it can be seen from space! Create a tour of the Great Barrier Reef using Google Earth.
- Did you know the first whale appeared 50 million years ago? Create a timeline that shows when these living beings appeared: whale, shark, dolphin, turtle, seahorse, jellyfish, human.
- Write a narrative that uses the ocean and its 'coral mansions' as a setting and includes a whale and a shark as characters.

Ocean health

Questions and activities

- Draw a heart and, inside it, write the things that you think make a healthy, happy ocean.
- Script a 30-second radio ad that informs people of the importance of looking after the ocean.
- Choose one of the following threats to the health of the ocean: plastic pollution, overfishing, global warming. Research the threat and then create a flow chart showing the effects of this threat.
- Design survey questions to ask your local community about marine conservation. Your questions may revolve around threats or marine life.
- Write a persuasive speech to encourage people to become advocates for the ocean.

KEY QUOTES

1. *'I'm the keeper of the whales*

And all the creatures of the sea.'

Design a mural that shows some of the creatures of the sea.

2. *'I'm the keeper of... all the coral mansions down deep in history.'*

Draw a picture of the Great Barrier Reef with its 'coral mansions' and the creatures that live there. You may want to label your illustration too.

3. *'I'm beginning to think you're not my friend.'*

In this book, the ocean tells us how she is feeling about human actions.

Think: what would you do if your friend was upset with you? How would you communicate your feelings?

Do: Write a letter to the ocean from your perspective in response to the book.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have a class debate on the topic: That every Australian should be responsible for the health of the ocean.
- What can you do to live a more sustainable life in your local community?
- Discuss the language techniques Williamson has employed to connect with the audience and promote activism.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- At the back of the book, you can visit the Australian Marine Conservation Society's website where you can watch the music video that accompanies this book. Listen to the song.

See: What creatures do you see in the music video?

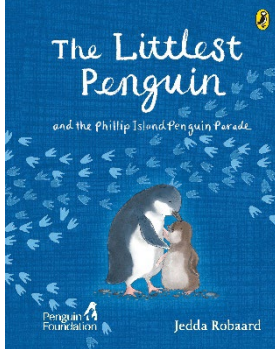
Think: How does the song make you feel?

Wonder: How can you be a better friend to the ocean?

- The video that accompanies the song includes beautiful [animation](#). Storyboard your own video clip to accompany this song with at least 3 frames.
- Design an album cover or Spotify image to promote this song.
- What other songs promote environmental activism? Create a playlist called "Voices of Mother Nature".
- Write another verse to the tune of this song. Your verse may be a response to the ocean from your perspective.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

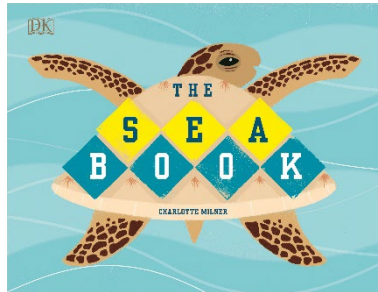


The Littlest Penguin
The Penguin Foundation
& Jemma Robaard

A 144-page story about the Phillip Island Penguin Parade.

Come on an incredible journey with Little Penguin, Scruffy, Cheeky and Big Chick as they go out to sea for the very first time. And learn everything you need to know about our real-life little penguins too.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)

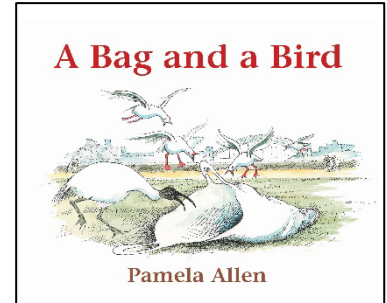


The Sea Book
by Charlotte Milner

Do some more underwater exploring!

Featuring fascinating fishy facts accompanied by bright, bold, and beautiful illustrations, this book takes children on a journey through the sea and all its zones. Touching on mammals, fish, invertebrates, and reptiles, *The Sea Book* explores a wealth of incredible marine animals and their habitats, from up on the ice, down to colourful coral reefs, underwater forests, and right down to the deepest darkest depths where the weird and wonderful lurk.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



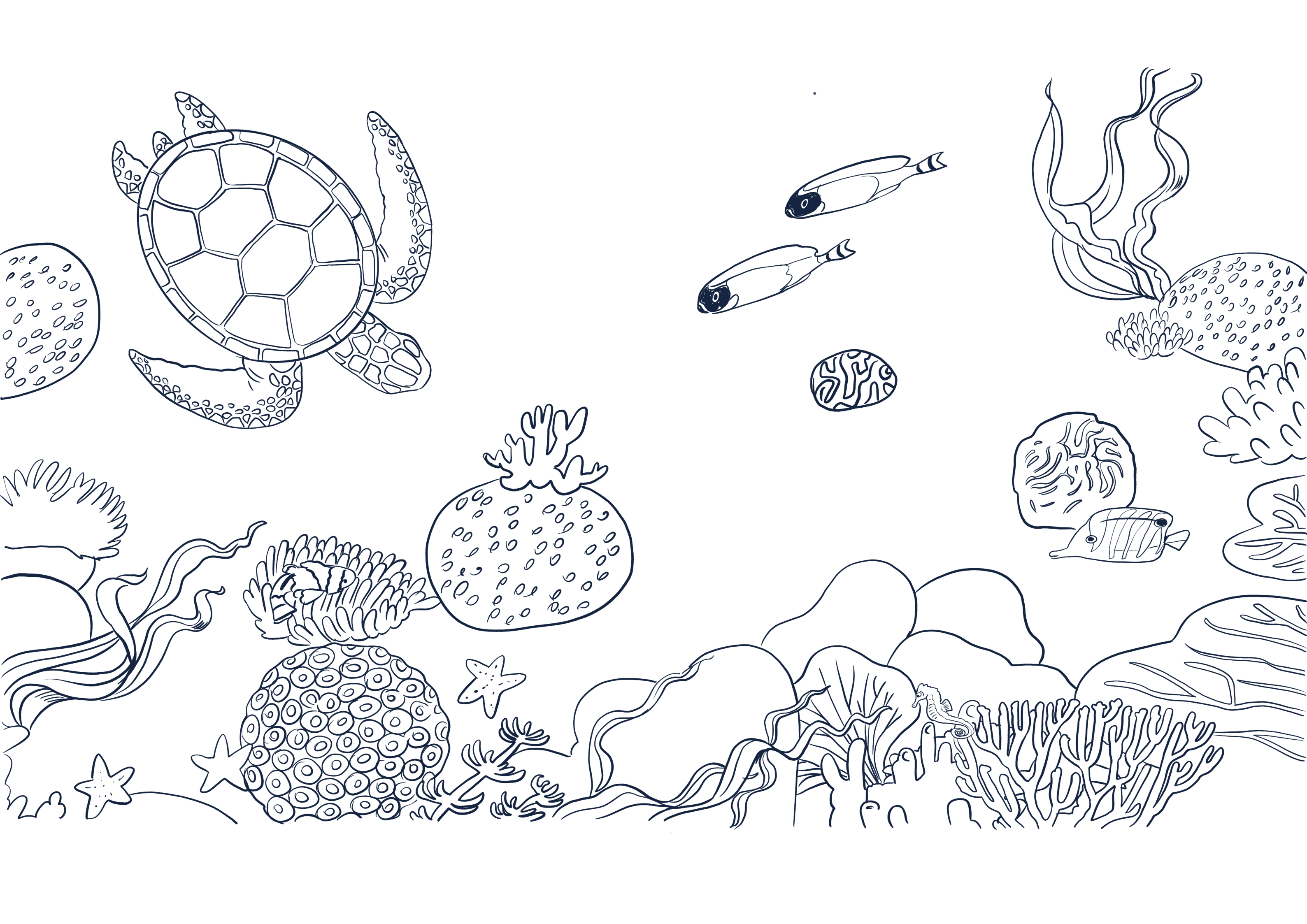
A Bag and a Bird
by Pamela Allen

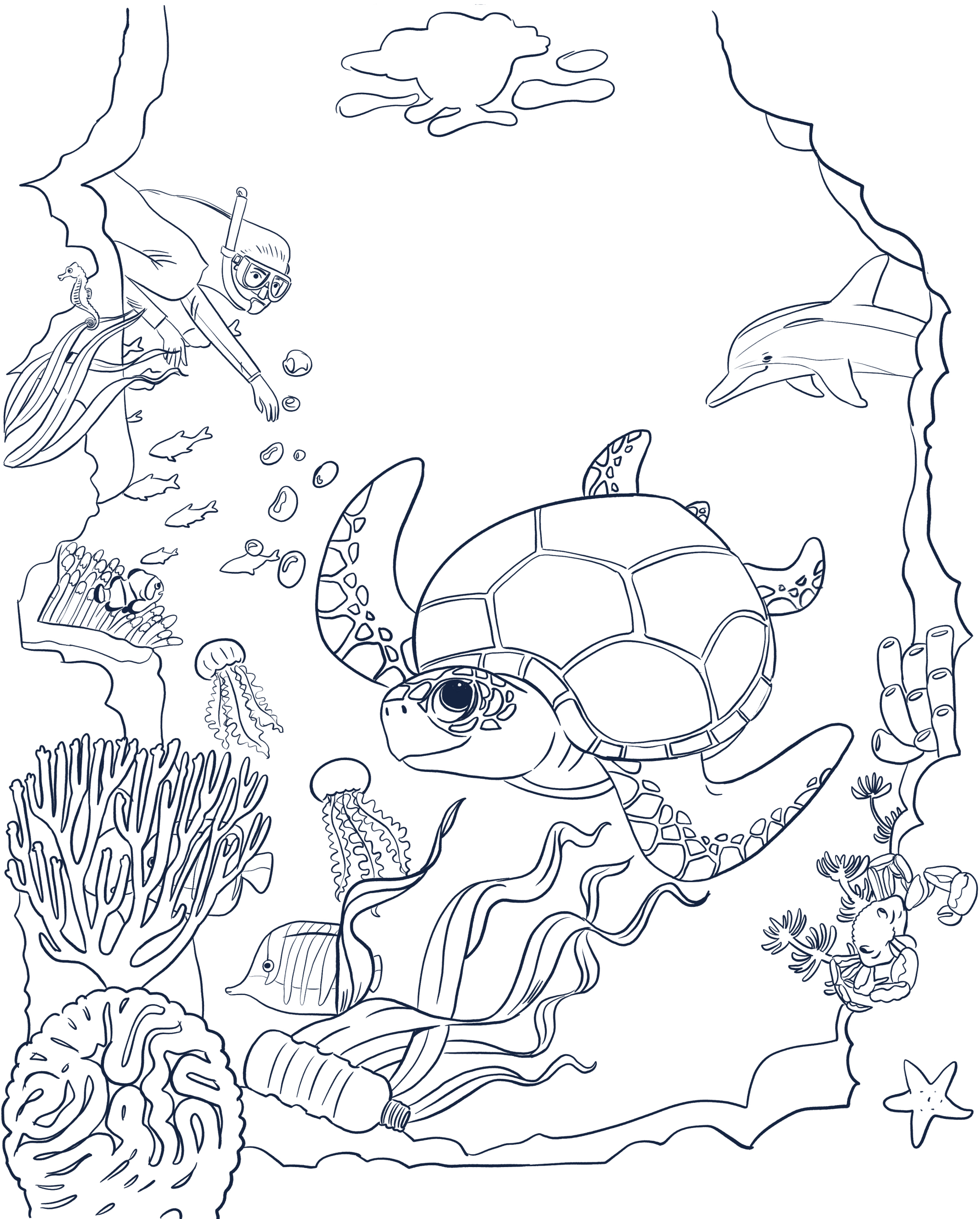
A classic story about rescuing a bird from a plastic bag.

This is a story of a plastic bag and a bird - a cautionary tale about taking care of our environment as well as being a wonderful showcase of some of the famous sights of Sydney.

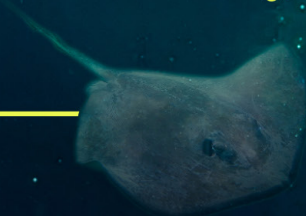
[Teachers' resources available.](#)







FANTASTICAL SHARKS & RAYS



Imagining a world beneath the waves

**A fantastical art competition.
The perfect summer activity
for your students.**

Did you know Australia's oceans are home to around a quarter of the world's shark and ray species? Some are so rarely seen that we don't have many pictures of them!

We are inviting the children of Australia to draw the sharks and rays of their imagination, helping to protect them from extinction by shining a spotlight on little known and uniquely Australian species.

The top artworks will become the inspiration for ten of Australia's iconic artists – including Ken Done, Reko Rennie, Janet Laurence, Jennifer Turpin and more.

Entering is easy!



1. Pick a shark or ray from the list on our website



2. Paint, draw or create the shark or ray using any materials you fancy



3. Submit the artwork online by 29 February 2024

ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|--|---|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----|-------|
| Voice of the Sea | John Williamson, Andrea Innocent & Jonathan Chong | 9781761344237 | K-6 | \$19.99 | | |
| Old Man Emu | John Williamson & Simon McLean | 9781760898793 | K-2 | \$19.99 | | |
| Christmas in Australia | John Williamson & Mitch Vane | 9780143507178 | K-2 | \$16.99 (pb) | | |
| My Dad Snores | John Williamson & Peter Carnavas | 9780143793793 | K-2 | \$19.99 | | |
| The Littlest Penguin (gift hardback, 144pp) | Penguin Foundation & Jeddah Robaard | 9781761341830 | 2-4 | \$24.99 | | |
| The Sea Book (non-fiction, 48pp) | Charlotte Milner | 9780241355374 | 2-4 | \$27.99 | | |
| A Bag and a Bird | Pamela Allen | 9780143784289 | K-2 | \$16.99 (pb) | | |
| Song of the White Ibis | Phillip Gwynne & Liz Anelli | 9781760897949 | K-2 | \$24.99 | | |
| How to Save the Whole Stinkin' Planet (non-fiction, 256pp) | Lee Constable & James Hart | 9781760890261 | 2-6 | \$19.99 | | |
| What a Waste (non-fiction, 72pp, hardback) | Jess French | 9780241366912 | 2-6 | \$22.99 | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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