

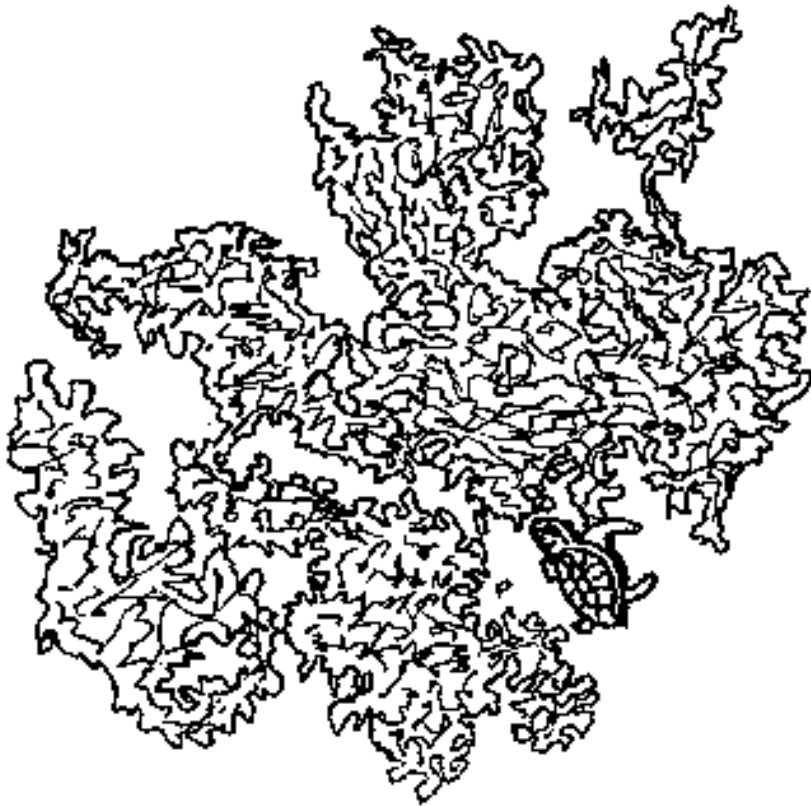
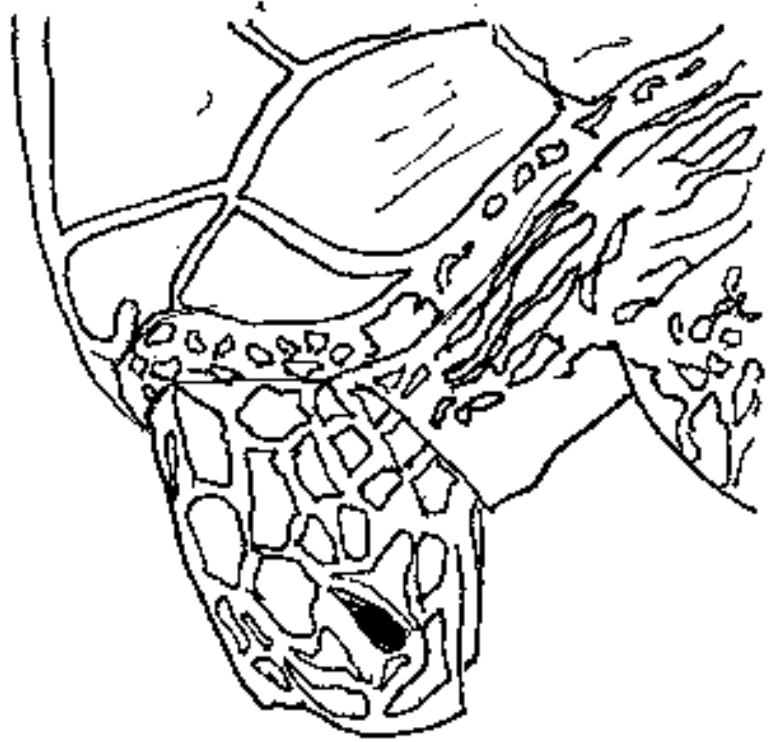


Loggerhead Release

To learn about sea turtles, research scientists capture them and take measurements like length and weight. Some turtles are even given a tag to help scientists keep track of the places they go.

Threatened by Extinction

In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed by the U.S. government to help protect animals and plants. Four sea turtle species – the green, leatherback, hawksbill, and Kemp's ridley – are listed as endangered, meaning they are at risk of extinction. The loggerhead is listed as threatened, meaning it is likely to become endangered in the future.

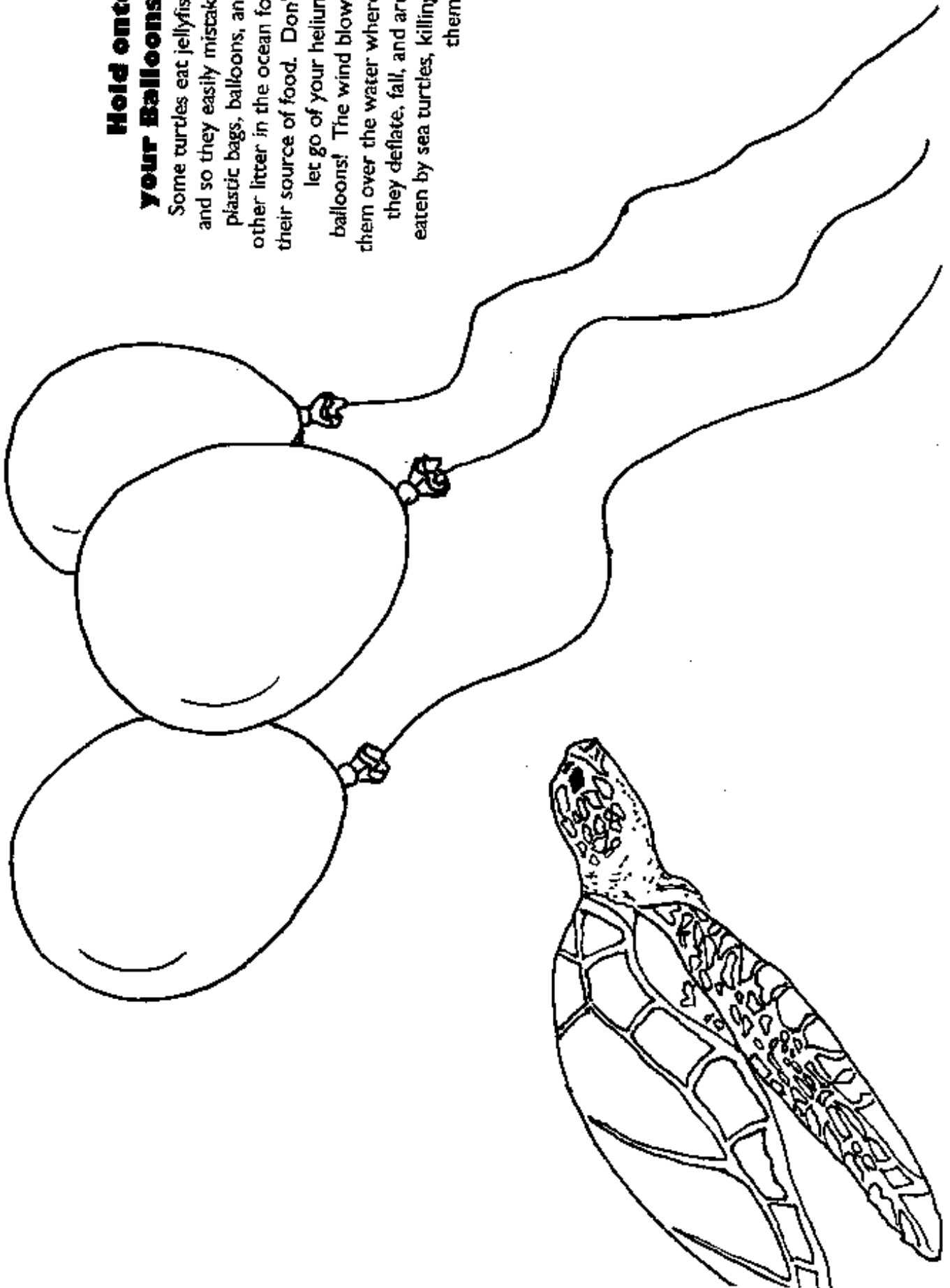


The "Lost Years"

Scientists at the Florida Marine Research Institute are studying young turtles. After hatchlings leave the beach and take to the sea, they spend the first years of their lives living in floating islands of seagrass called Sargassum. It is called the "lost year" because, until recently, not much was known about what turtles did after they hatched.

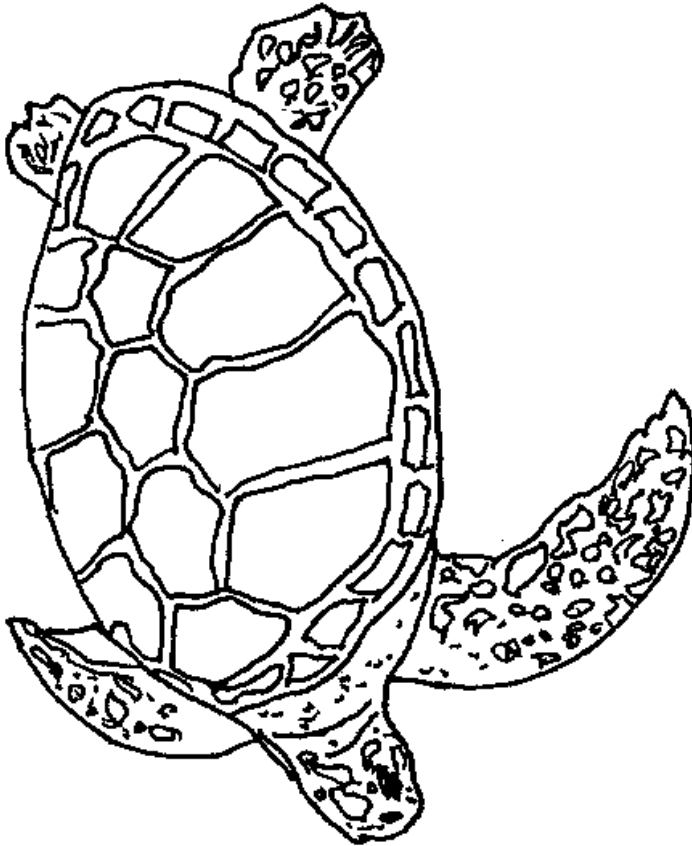
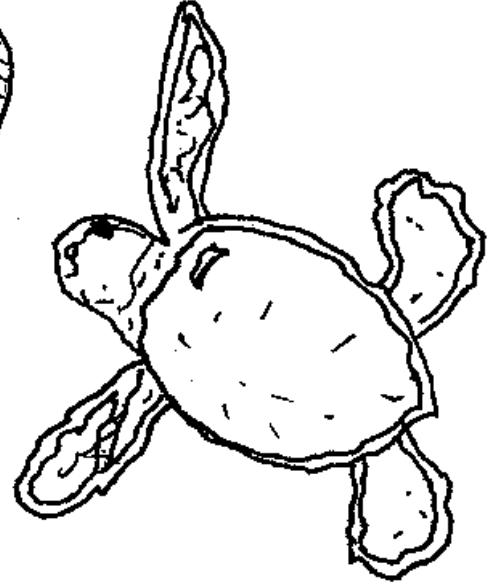
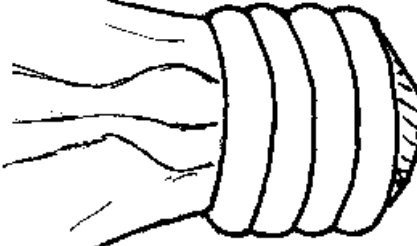
**Hold onto
your Balloons!**

Some turtles eat jellyfish and so they easily mistake plastic bags, balloons, and other litter in the ocean for their source of food. Don't let go of your helium balloons! The wind blows them over the water where they deflate, fall, and are eaten by sea turtles, killing them.



Turn off the Lights

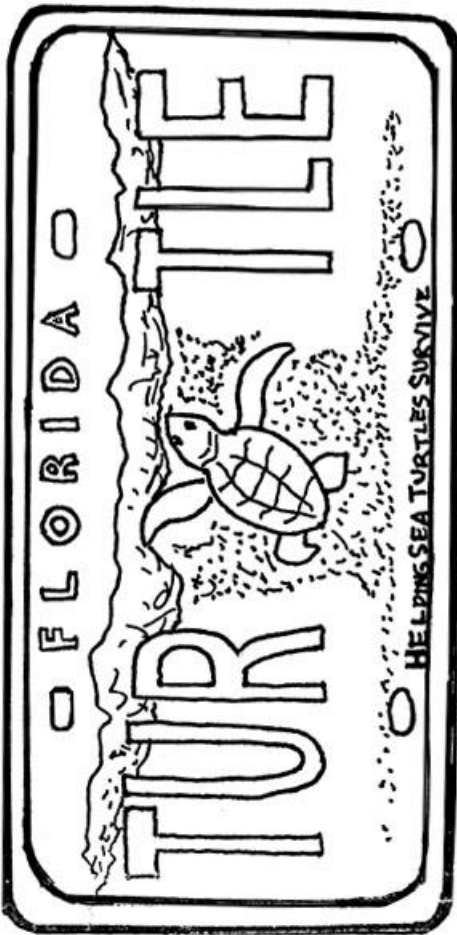
When turtles are born, they dig out of their nests and instinctively crawl towards the brightest light. On a natural beach the brightest light is the ocean's horizon, but on a developed beach, building and street lights can easily fool hatchlings into going the wrong way, meaning death to the baby turtles. Female turtles are also distracted by lights when they come on the beach to nest, and they then return to the water without laying any eggs. During turtle nesting season, make sure your lights can't be seen on the beach.



Don't Block the Beach

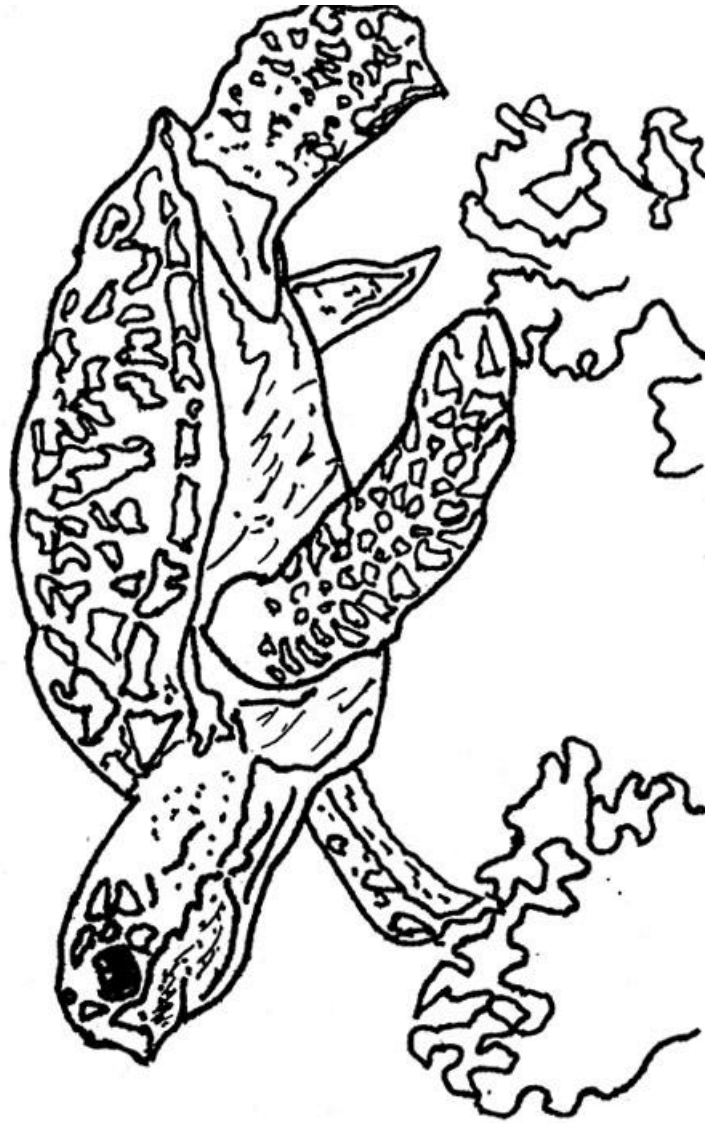
For sea turtles to survive, we must remember to share the beach with them. Everything from sea walls to beach chairs can cause female turtles to "false crawl" and return to the ocean without laying any eggs.





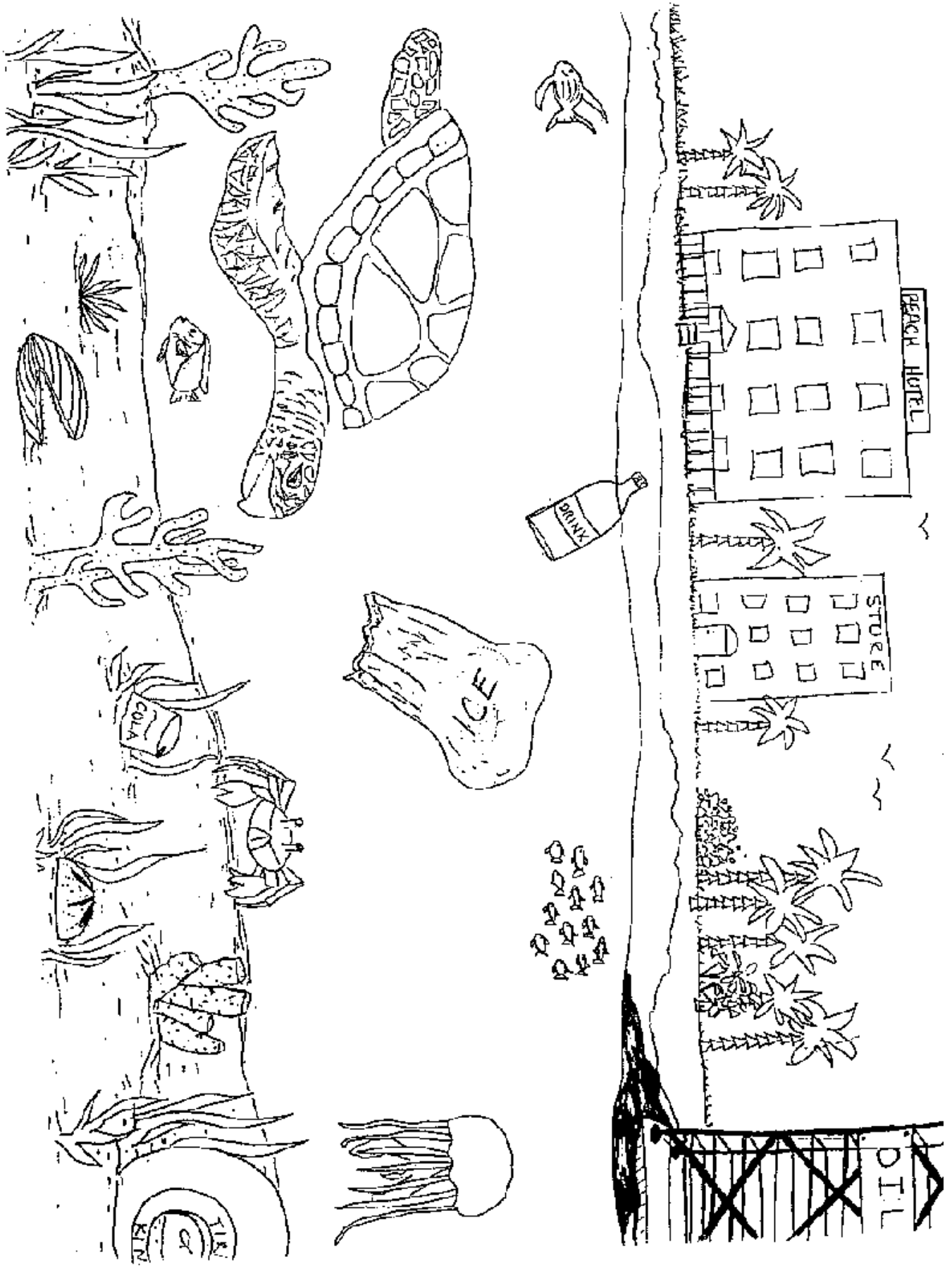
“Helping Sea Turtles Survive”

That is the motto on Florida’s sea turtle specialty tag. A part of the money collected from sales of the sea turtle tag is donated to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to fund research about sea turtles and other marine species.

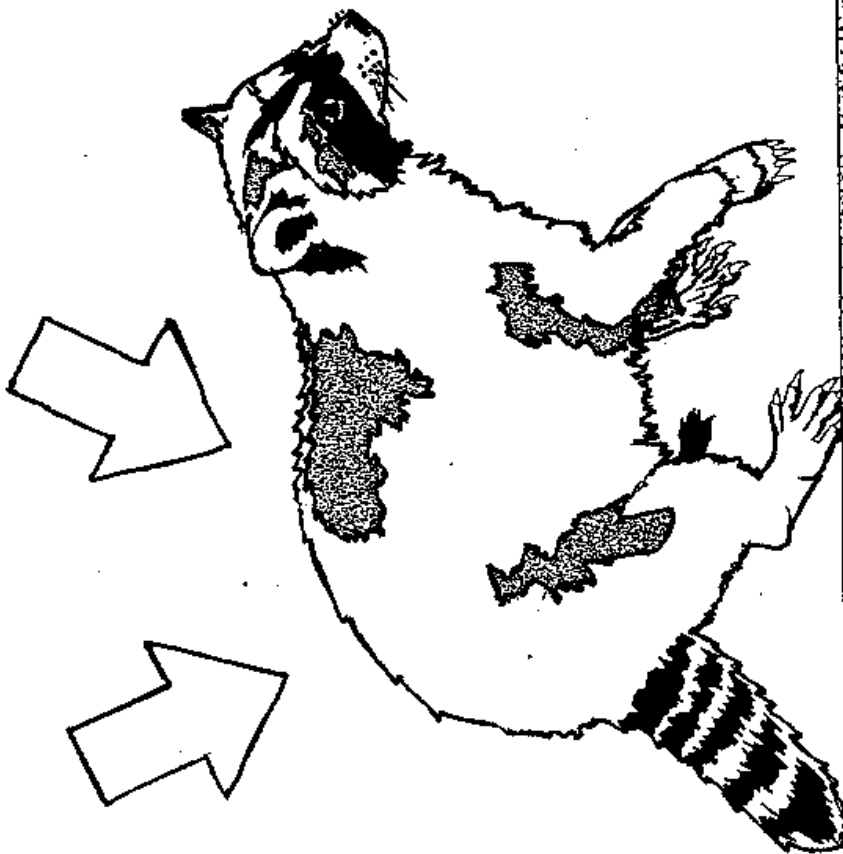


Catch the Nets

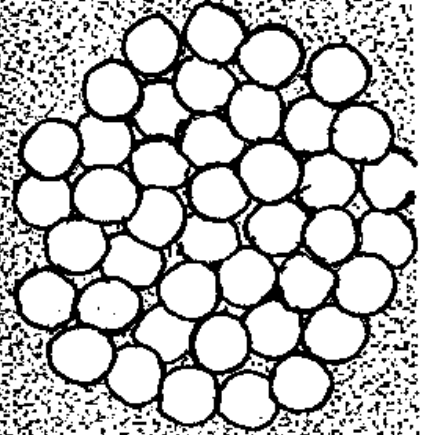
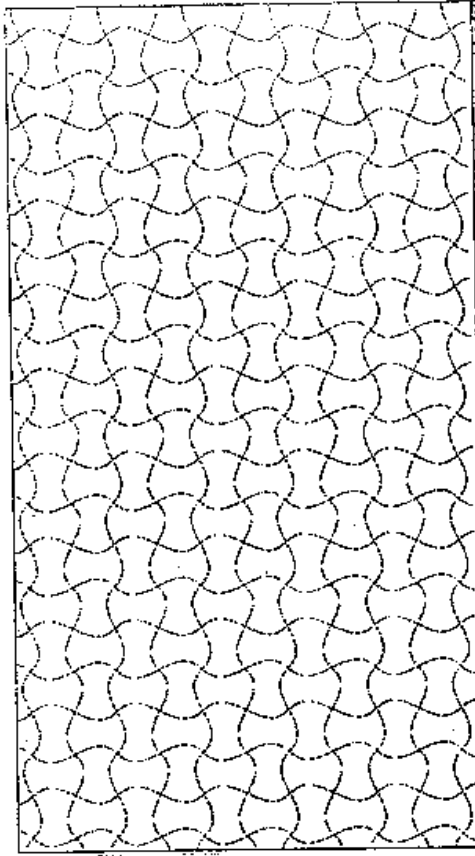
Sea turtles spend almost every moment of their life at sea. Besides sharing the ocean with litter, they must also dodge discarded nets and fishing lines. In the U.S., shrimp fishermen are required to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) that allow turtles to escape.



Guess who eats turtle eggs?



**Don't worry...
This cage will protect them.**



Learn more about sea turtles and other marine species at the
Florida Marine Research Institute's website: www.floridamarine.org