

# AN EGYPTIAN VOYAGE

Miss Turtle's Journey to Egypt

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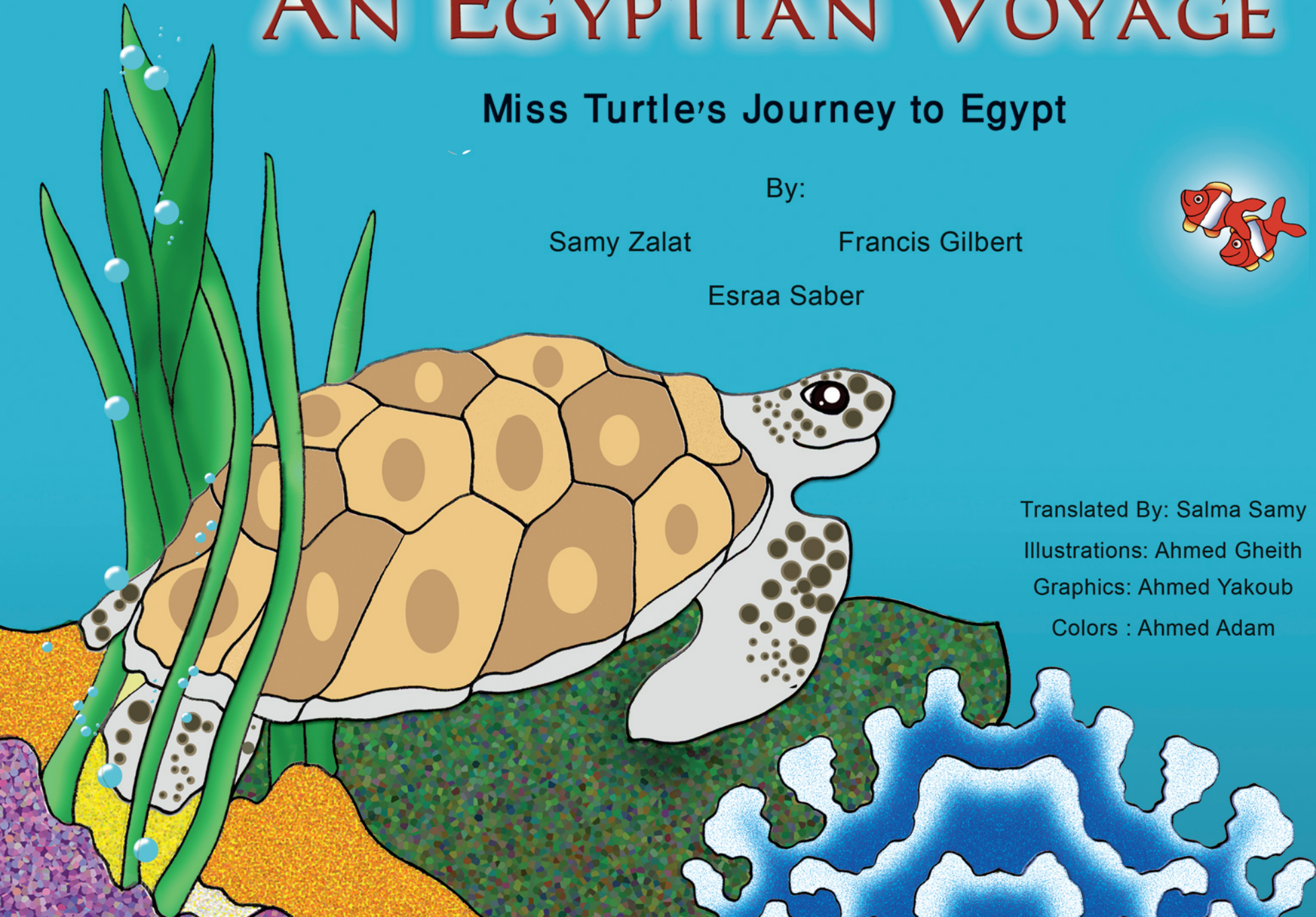


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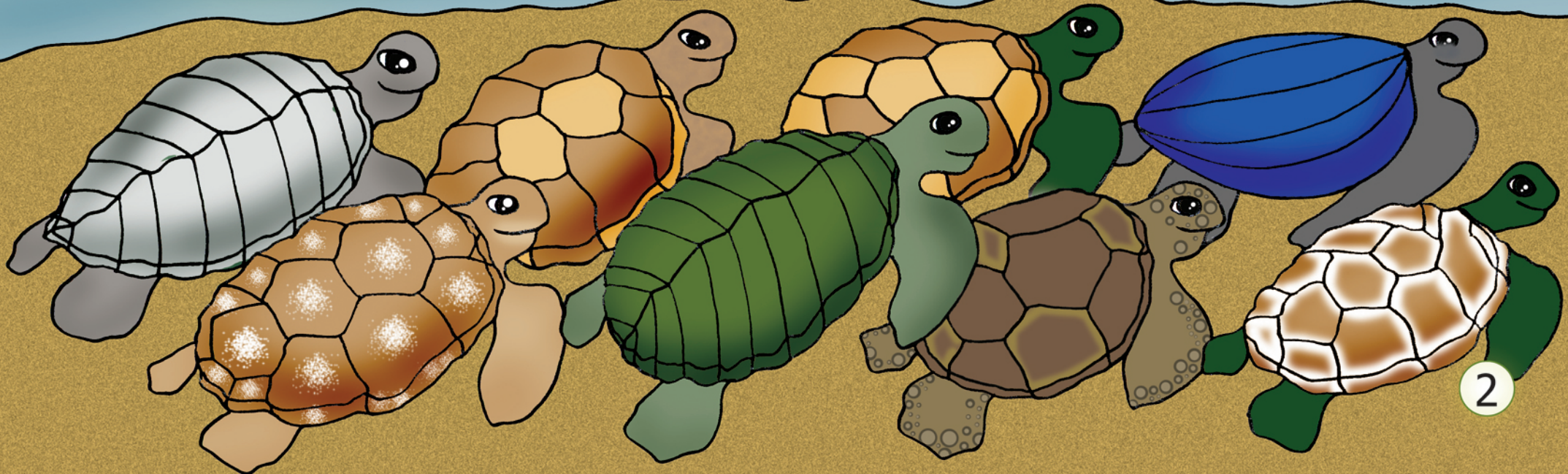


On a beautiful remote island, there live many animals and plants. The animals there organise many entertaining activities such as beauty contests. One day all the animals agreed to arrange a special beauty contest for the turtles.





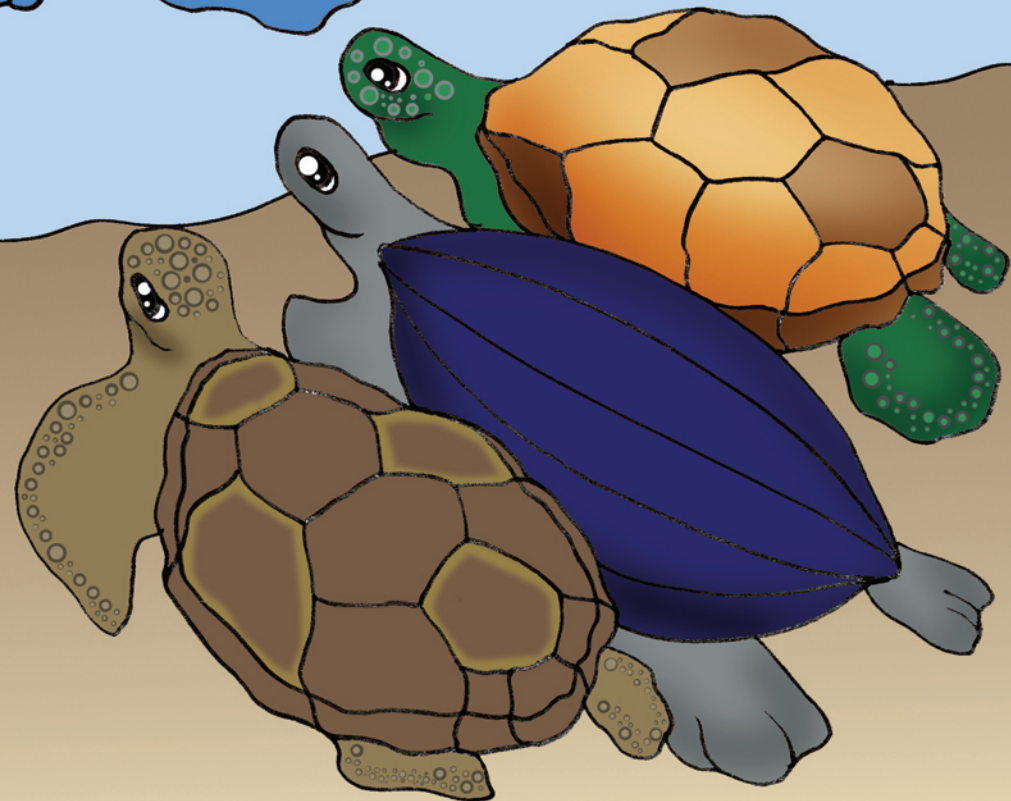
Eight participants were there. They were the Green, Black, Loggerhead, Leatherback, Hawksbill, little Olive Ridley, Kemp's Ridley and Flatback turtles.



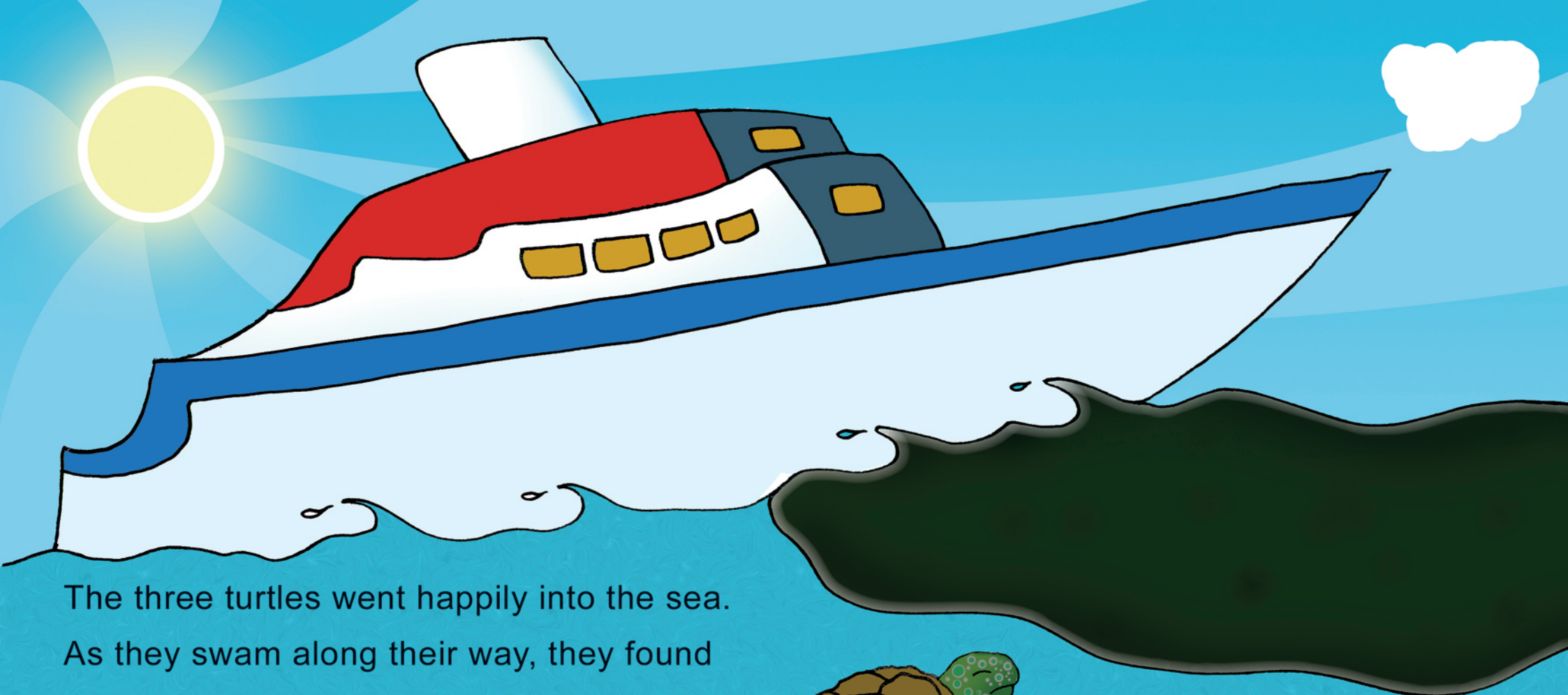




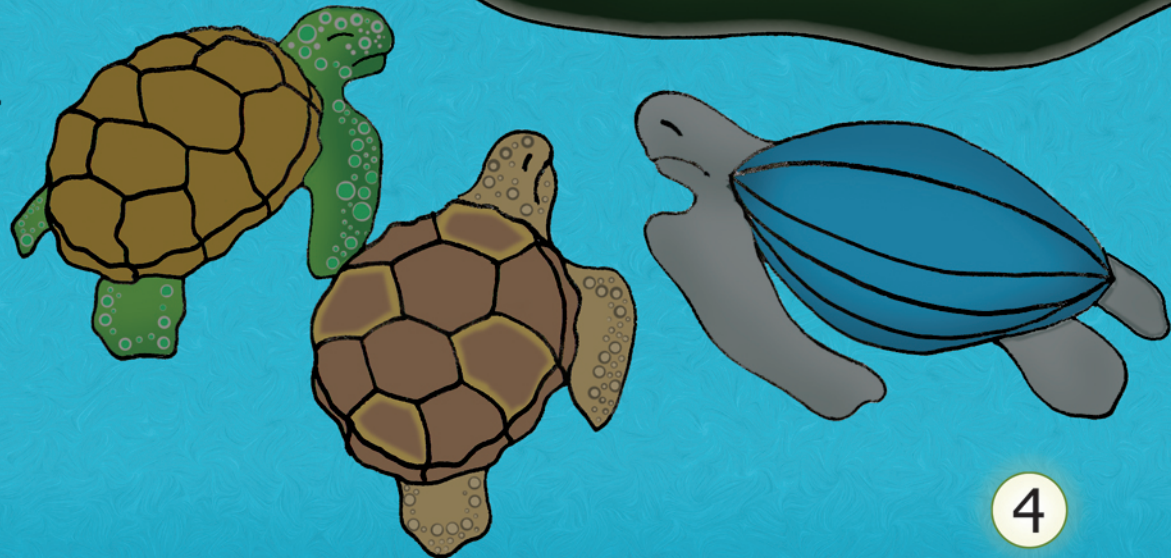
Loggerhead was the second runner-up, and the first runner-up was Leatherback; but Green won the title of “Miss Turtle”. The committee then gave these three a free journey to wherever they wished. “To Egypt”, they decided.





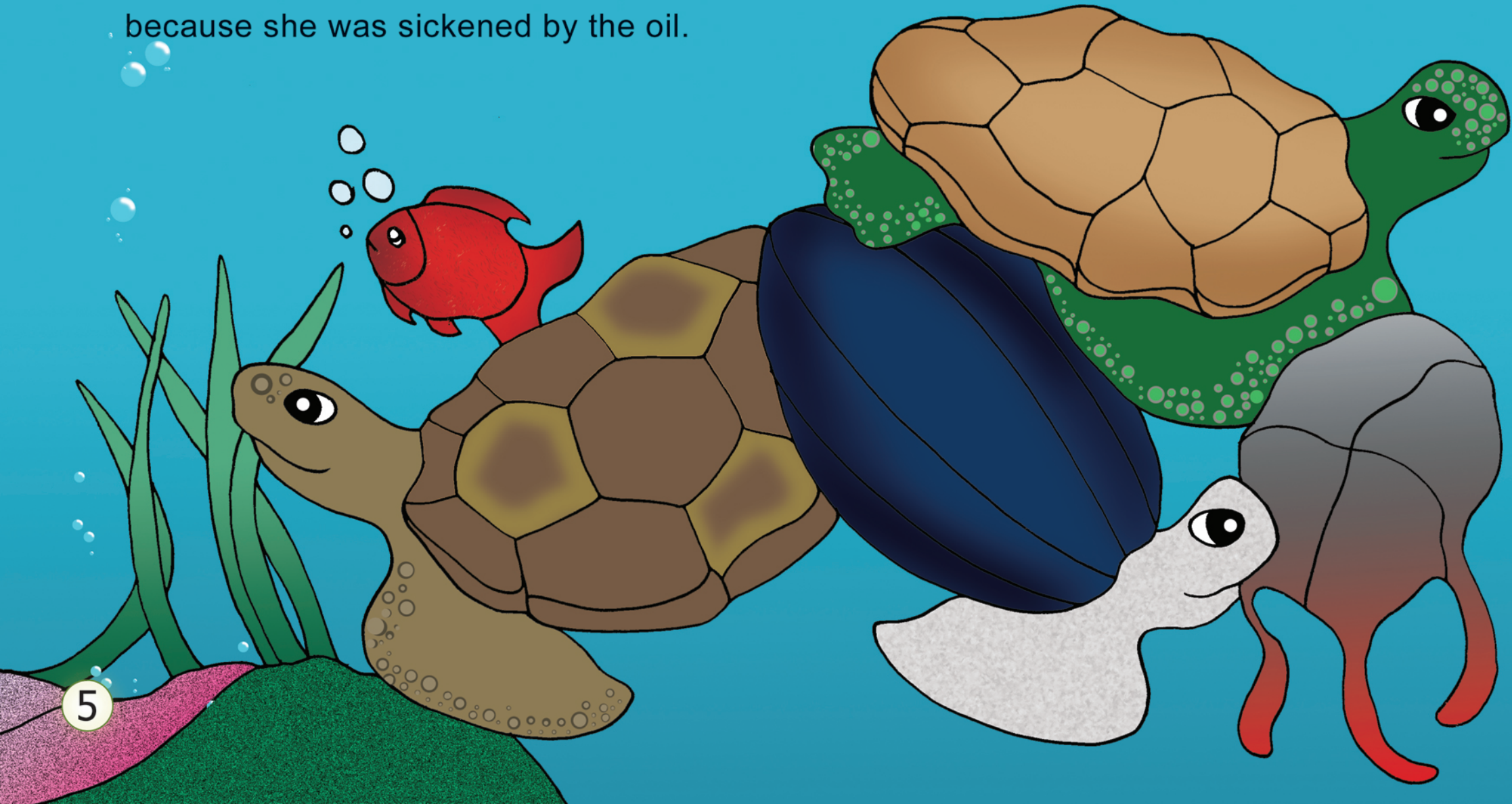


The three turtles went happily into the sea. As they swam along their way, they found a huge floating oil slick from a passing ship. It stuck to their bodies, which really upset them.

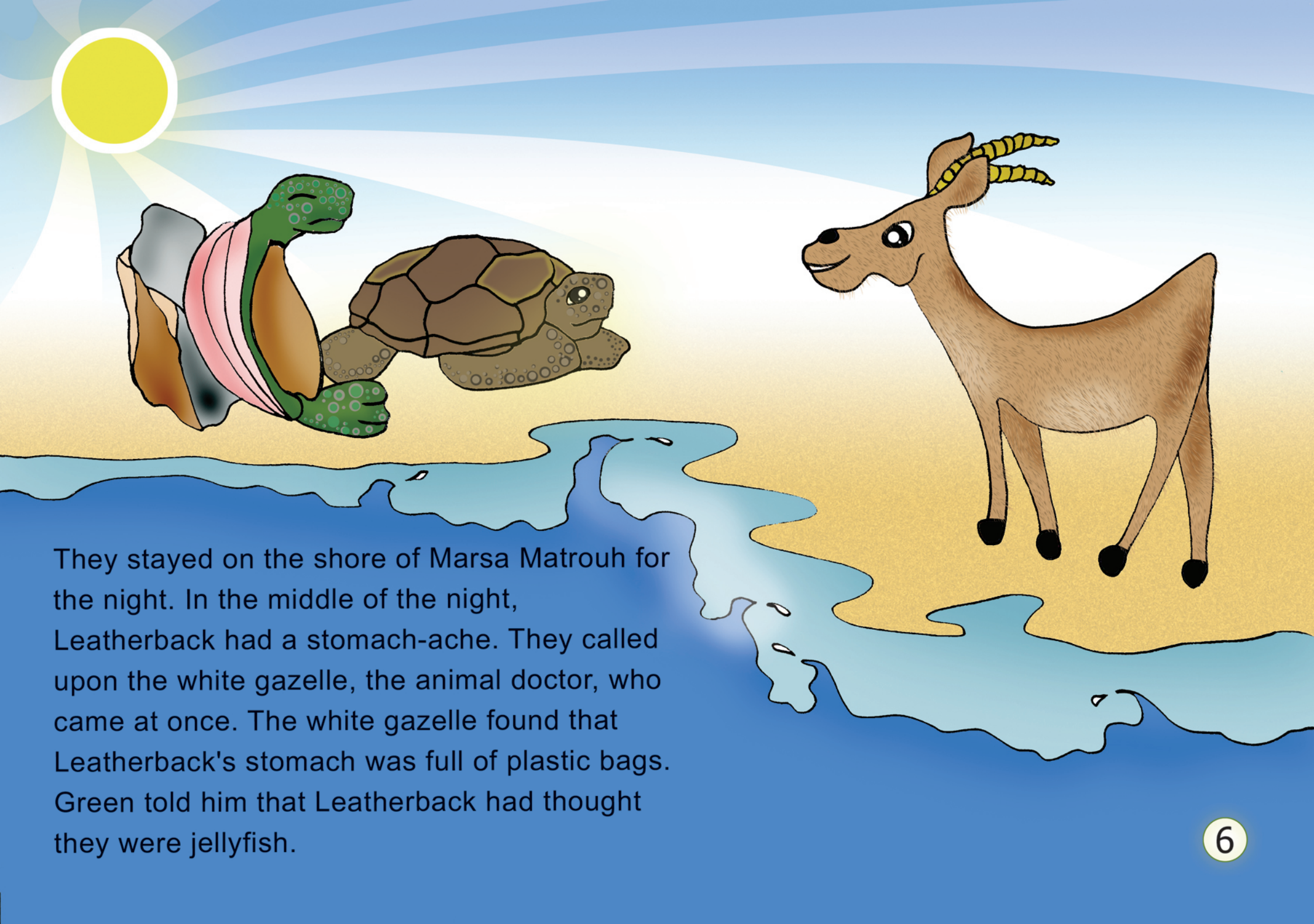




They all went away to clean themselves. They felt hungry and collected some food. Green had her algae, Leatherback caught some jellyfish, while Loggerhead didn't join in because she was sickened by the oil.



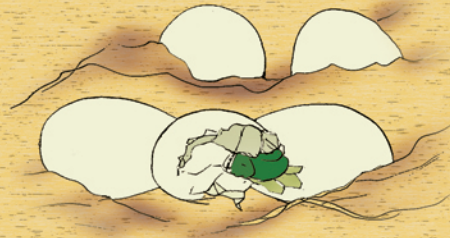




They stayed on the shore of Marsa Matrouh for the night. In the middle of the night, Leatherback had a stomach-ache. They called upon the white gazelle, the animal doctor, who came at once. The white gazelle found that Leatherback's stomach was full of plastic bags. Green told him that Leatherback had thought they were jellyfish.



The next morning, the turtles went to Alexandria. They saw children playing and building castles on the beach. There were also some turtle eggs there.






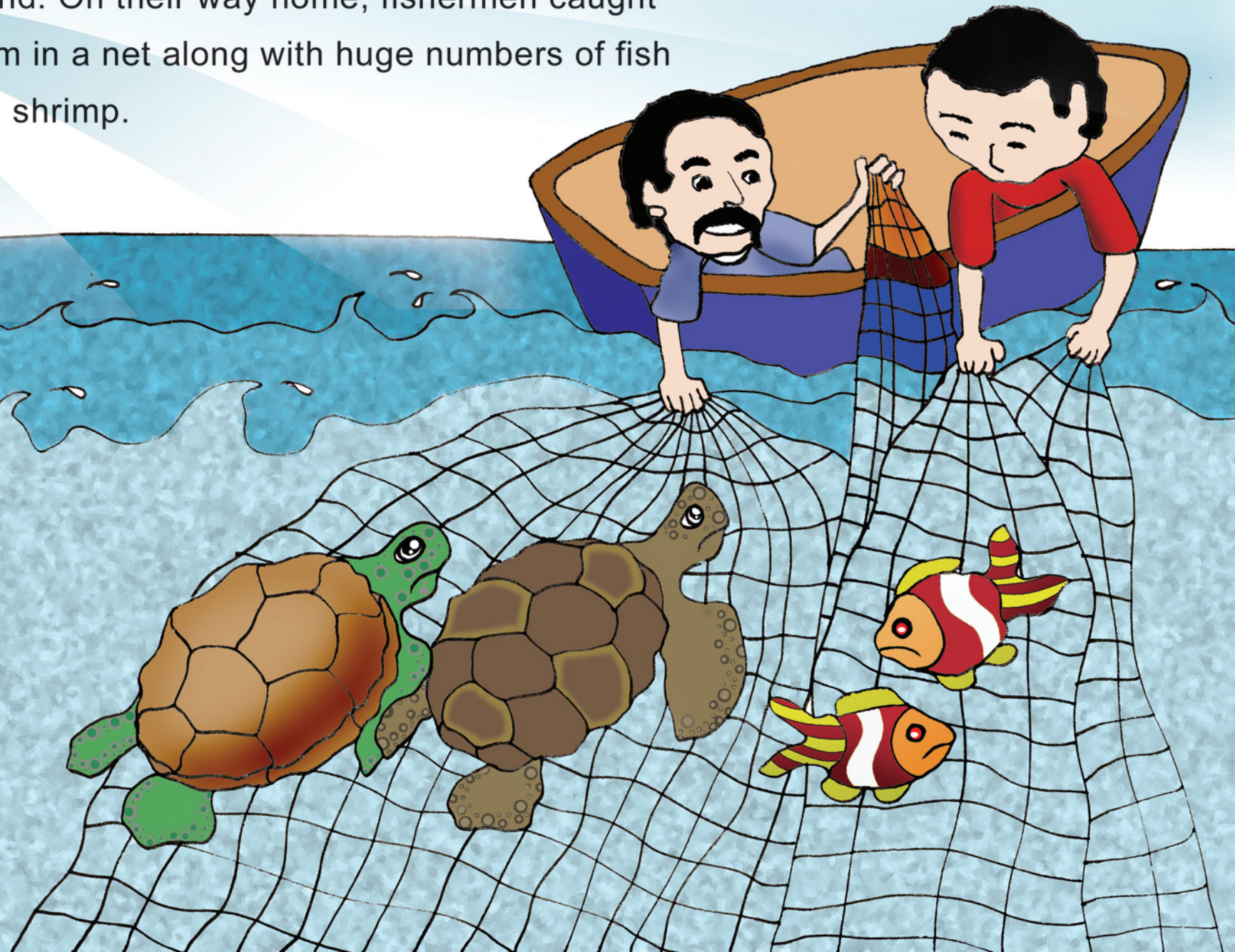
The eggs broke because of the children's activities. Yet the three turtles were very happy to see little baby turtles coming out of the remaining eggs. But man's bright light on the shore helped the ravens and gulls to see the young clearly, and pick them all up and eat them.





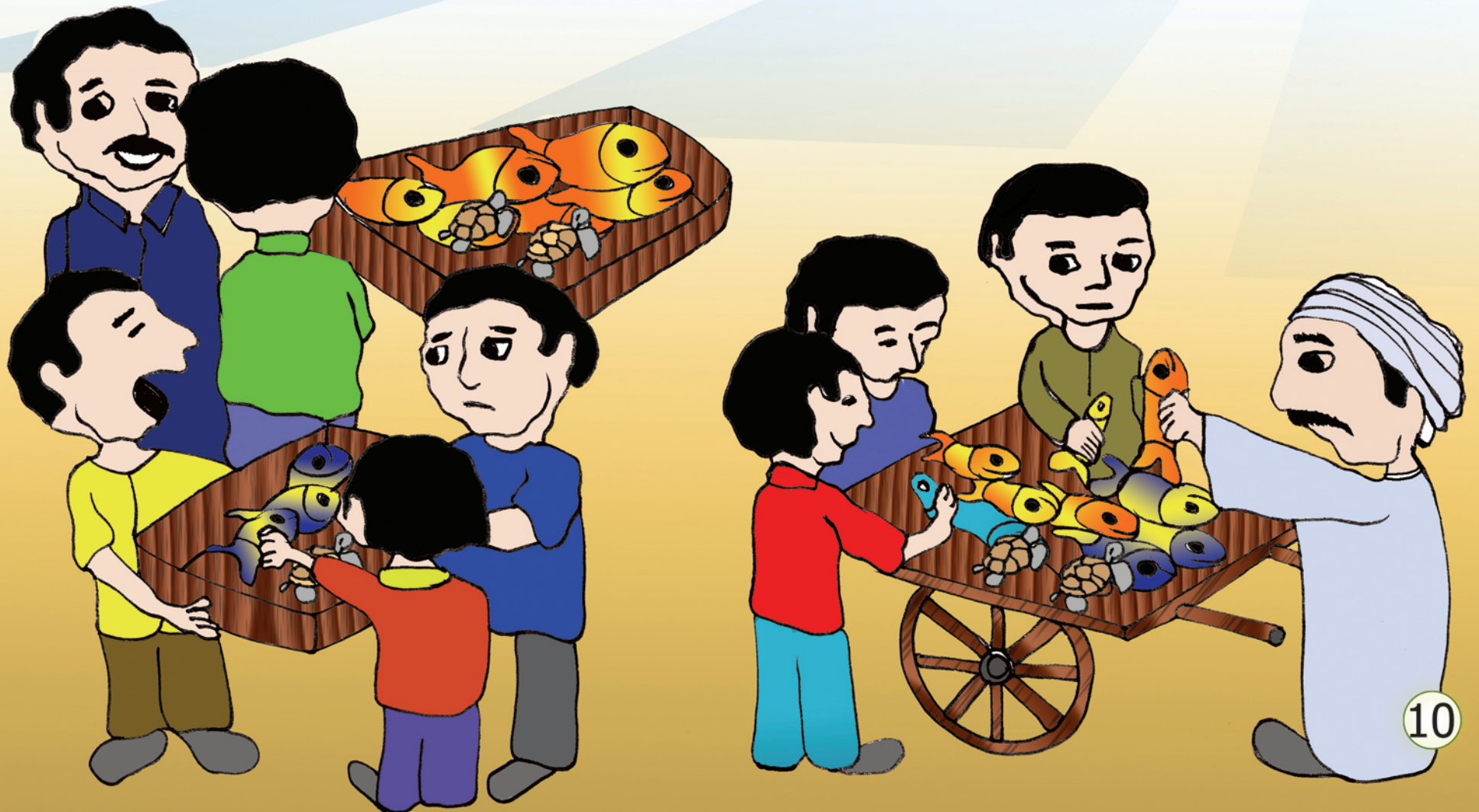


The turtles then decided to return to their safe island. On their way home, fishermen caught them in a net along with huge numbers of fish and shrimp.

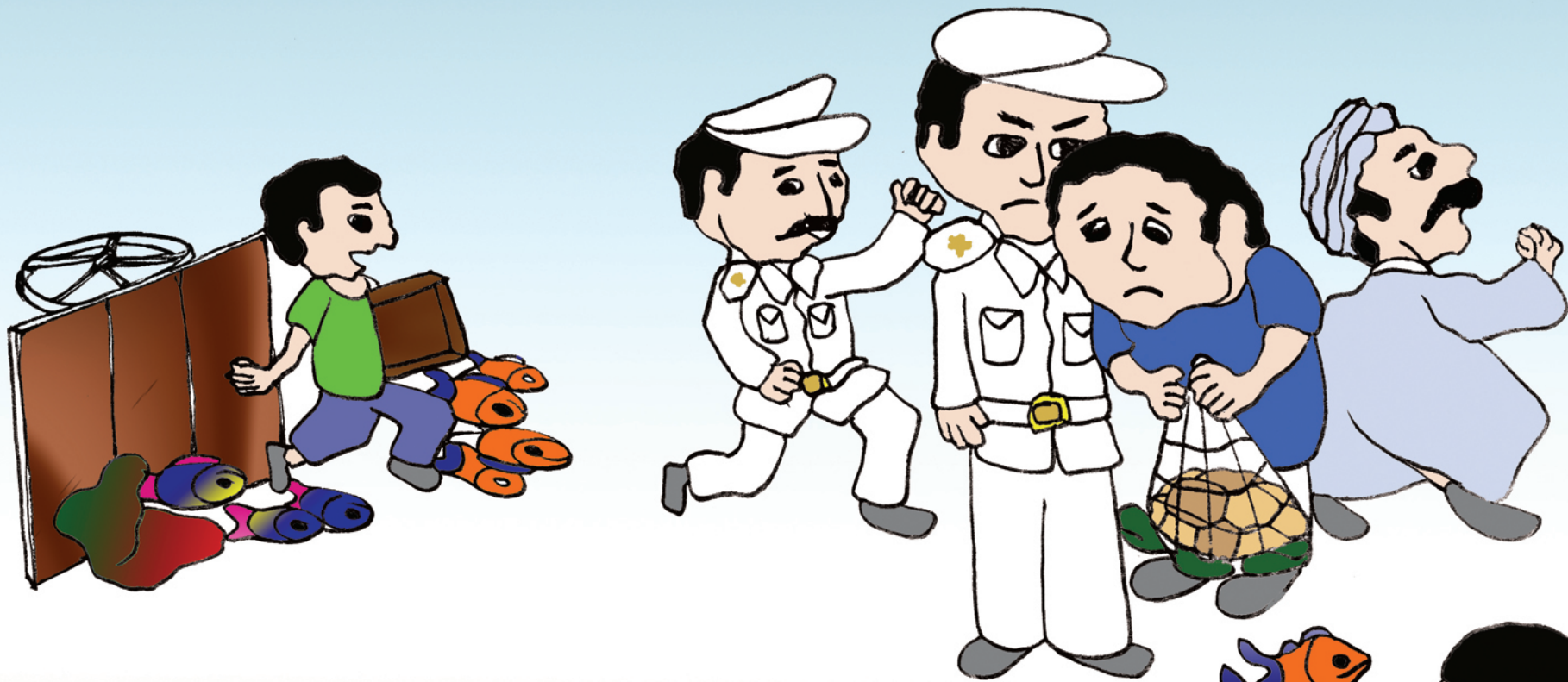




The fishermen took them to a fish market to be sold. The turtles were surprised at the idea of being put on sale. But one fish told them that people in Alexandria like to eat turtle flesh and drink their blood. This is wrong.







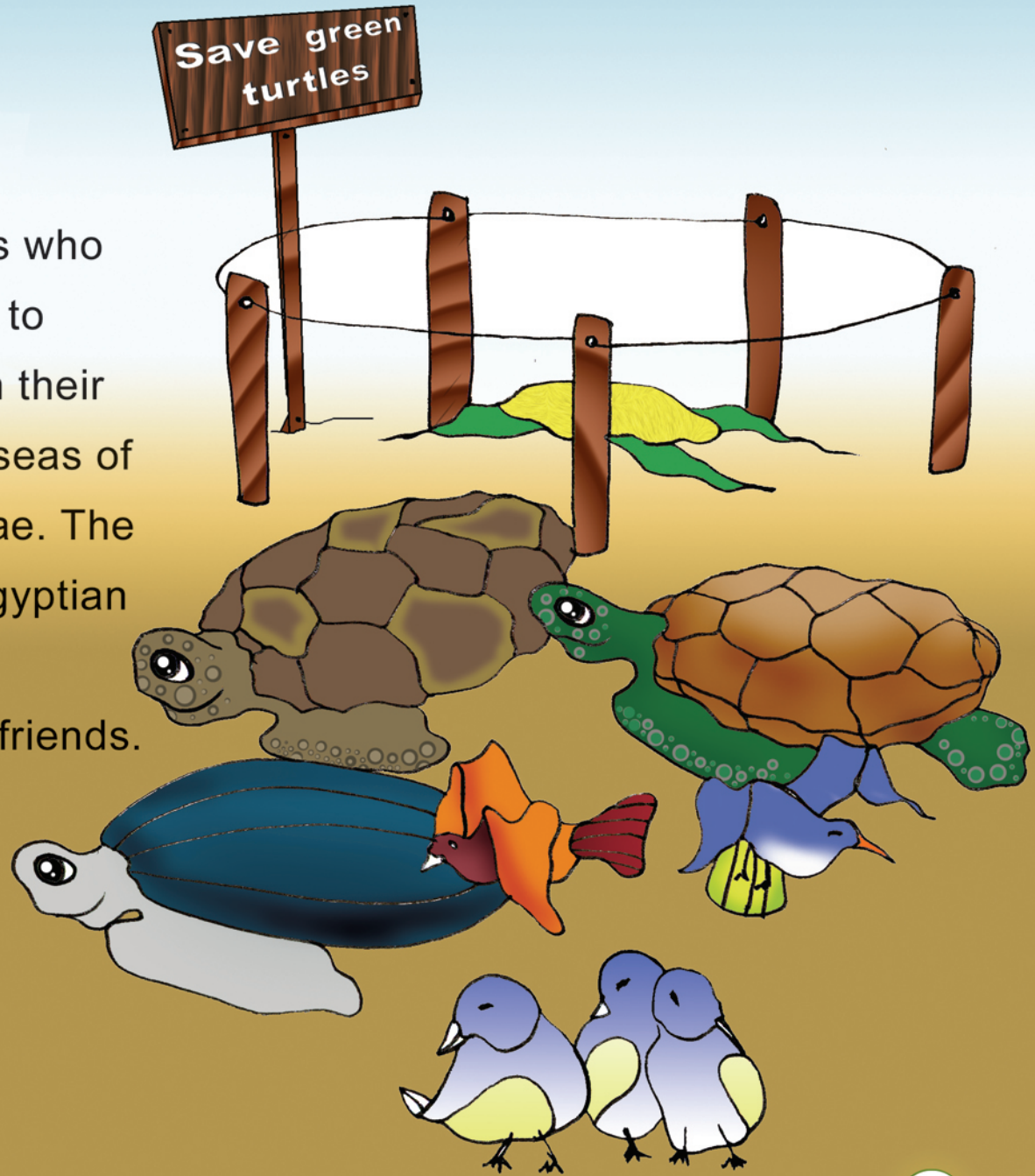
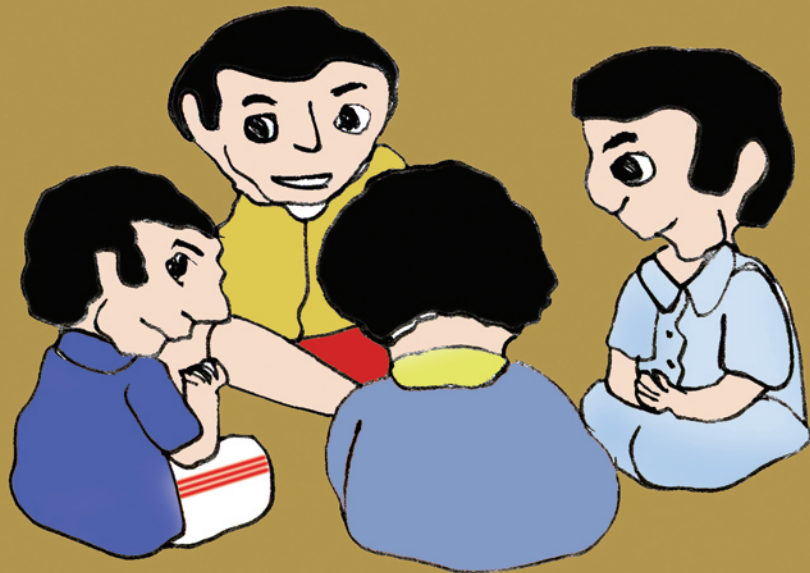
Policemen came and arrested the seller. This made the turtles very happy indeed. The policemen took the turtles to the Zaranik Protected Area on the Mediterranean. There, they were safe among other animals who were being protected.







In Zaranik, the turtles found nice rangers who looked after them. These rangers talked to people about the importance of turtles in their lives. They told them that turtles rid the seas of harmful things, such as jellyfish and algae. The turtles found some friends among the Egyptian turtles. And there they had a great time, enjoying themselves in peace with their friends.





## Do you know?

- The turtle is a reptile. It can live on land and in water (it swims in seas and oceans). It never comes ashore except to lay its eggs.
- Turtles differ from tortoises (which we keep sometimes at home); their limbs are similar to fins to help them swim.
- The turtle breathes through lungs, and therefore needs to get to the water's surface to get air.
- A turtle may weigh up to 135 kilograms, and may reach a meter or more in length.
- A female lays about 80-120 eggs at a time, in a hole she makes in the sand. Then she covers them with sand, where they remain until they hatch about 2 months later.
- After laying her eggs, the turtle returns to water. The eggs then hatch into small, almost-blind turtles that are guided by moonlight's reflection on the water.
- Zaranik is an important place for birds as many migratory bird flocks pass over it, especially in winter and spring. Therefore, it is popular worldwide for being a remarkable place to see birds.

## Believe it or not:

- A turtle can live for up to 200 years.
- After laying its eggs in a hole, the turtle makes a number of similar holes before it returns to sea. This is to protect her eggs from their natural enemies.
- On her way back to the water, after laying her eggs, some tears come into the female's eyes. This is to clean the sand out of them.
- Only 2 or 3 turtles out of 10000 survive to maturity.



## What can I do to protect the turtle?

- Don't throw waste (especially plastic bags) onto the shore. If you find any, pick it up.
- Don't bother a turtle while she is laying her eggs because her eggs will die after she escapes you. Don't use strong lights.
- Don't touch the nest holes you find on the beach.



## The message:

- Turtles are beautiful and important creatures.
- Unintentionally, Man harms the turtles.
- Turtles started to disappear because of this harm.
- We should stop harming the turtles and advise others to do the same.

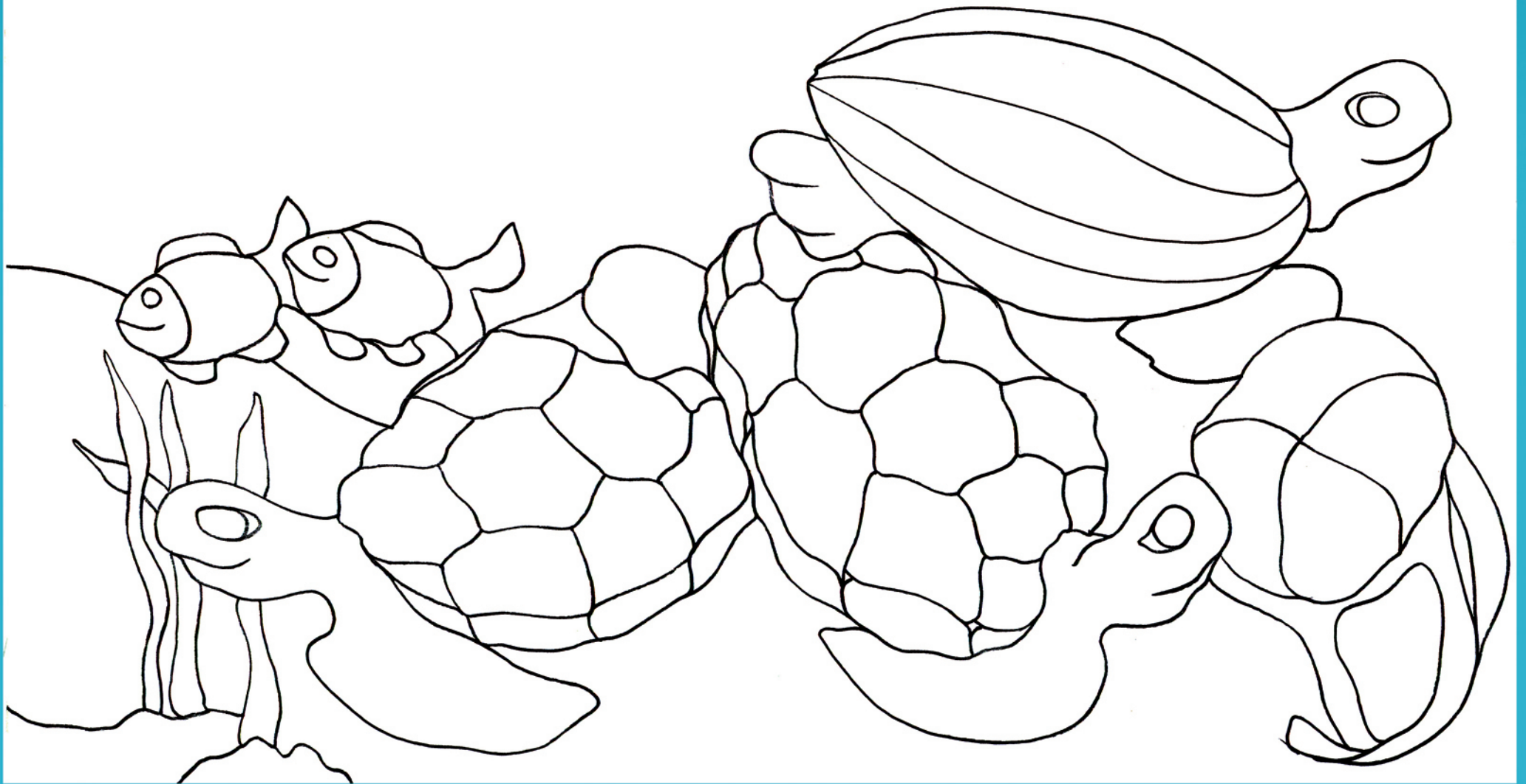
## Questions:

1. How many turtles participated in the contest?
2. Which turtle won the title?
3. Who cured Leatherback?
4. Where did the policemen take the three turtles to?





# Miss Turtles





# Save the Turtles

Ministry of State For Environmental Affairs

**BIODIVERSITY MONITORING  
& ASSESSMENT PROJECT  
( BioMAP )**



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