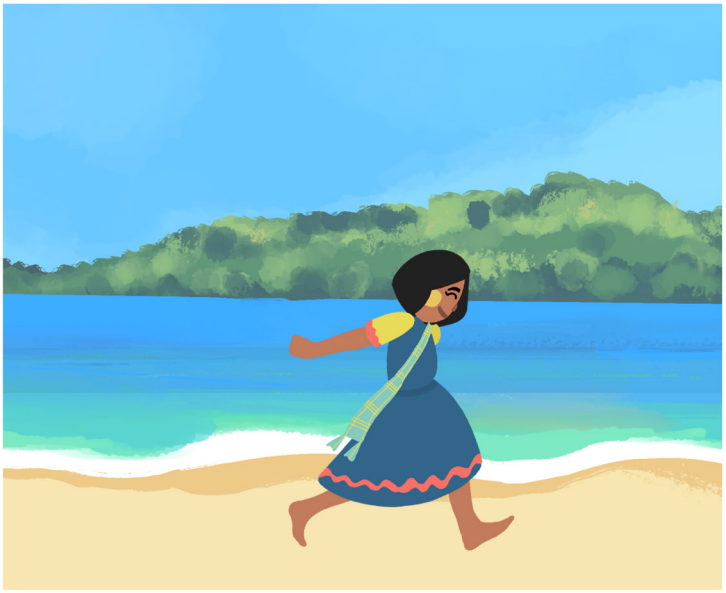
လန်ပိအက္ကဝါအမျိုးသားဥယျာဉ်
ဘိုချိုကျွန်း



Oh look!
Seashells!!!

I might grab a few for my friends back home.

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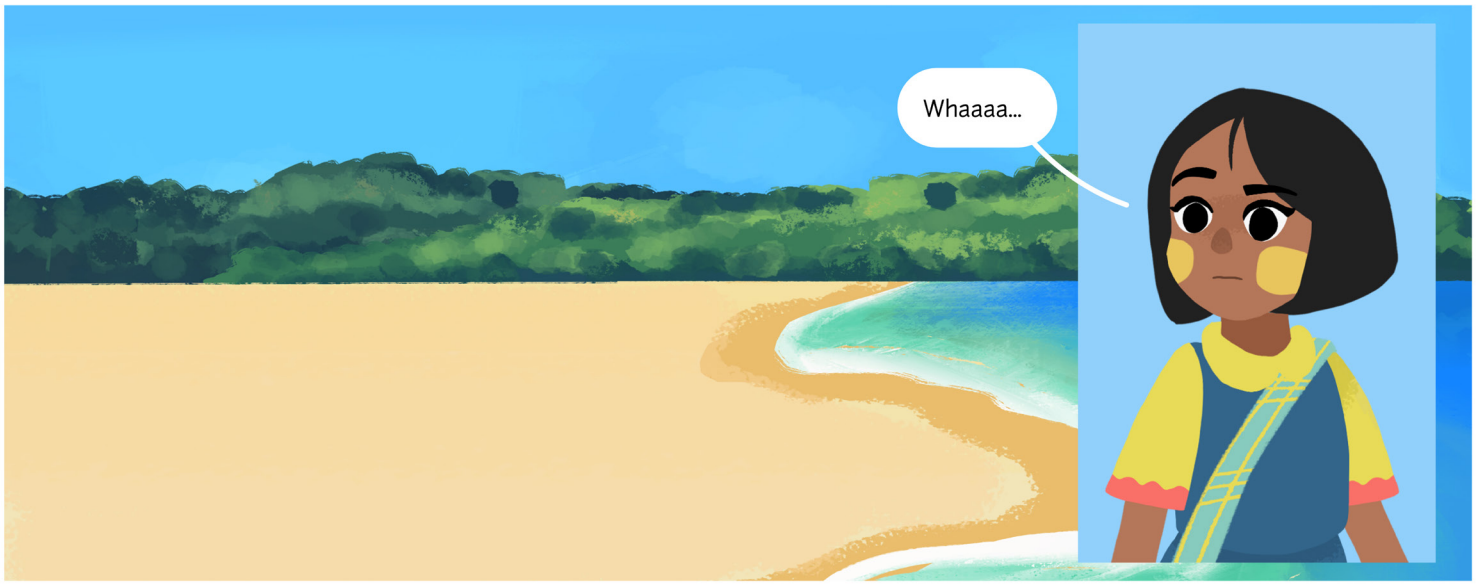
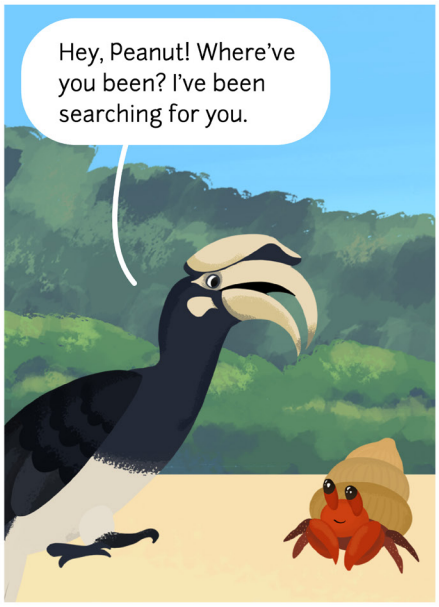

Whaaaa...

Where did all this rubbish come from?

Oh, thank goodness! I can breathe again!

I've been strug-gling to get out from under this cup for some time, you know.

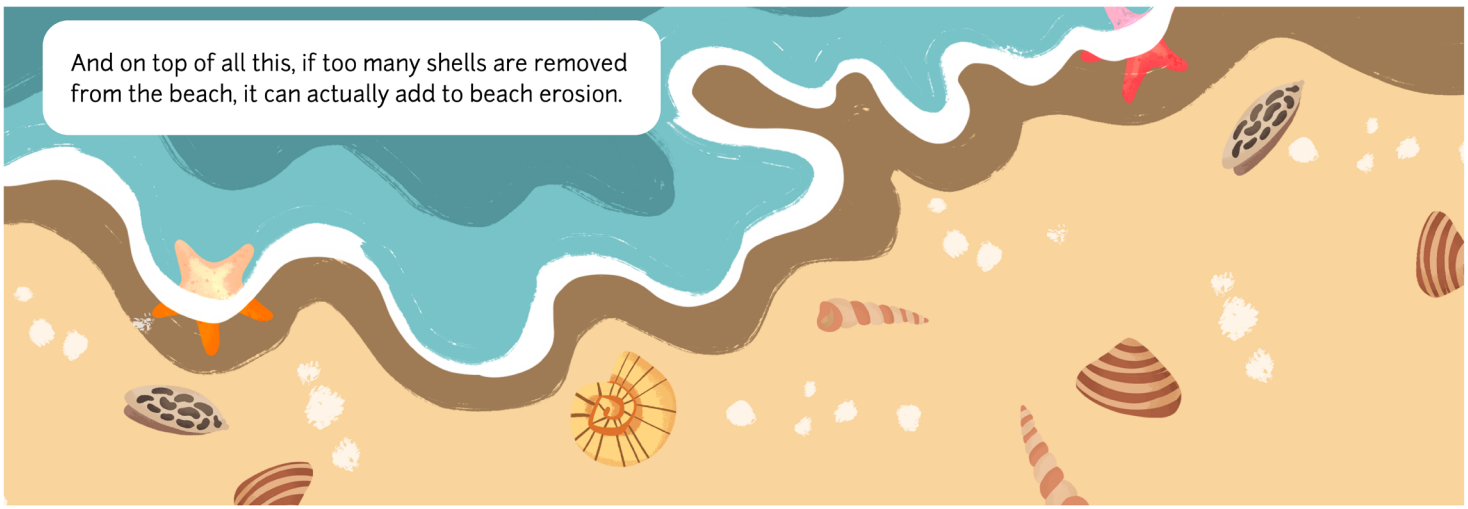

Hey, Peanut! Where've you been? I've been searching for you.

Ah, Ma Khuu, my friend! I was trapped inside this cup!

But this kind kid here just helped me get out!

I am Thazin.

It's my first time visiting the beach with my family.
I'm just collecting these beautiful seashells!
But I also noticed a lot of rubbish on the beach, so I am trying to pick up what I can.
Wow, thanks for helping me out, and for picking up the trash!
But I must tell you, little Thazin, gathering shells is... well... gathering shells actually hurts me and my friends, and the beach too!
You might want to decorate your home with shells, but for us, the shells ARE our home.
We hide inside them in times of danger. The surfaces of the shells are also homes for important seaweeds and algae.


And on top of all this, if too many shells are removed from the beach, it can actually add to beach erosion.

Oh my! I didn't realize shells were this important! I just wanted to collect beautiful things!

I don't want to take the shells, if it is going to hurt you and your friends. No souvenir is worth destroying your home.

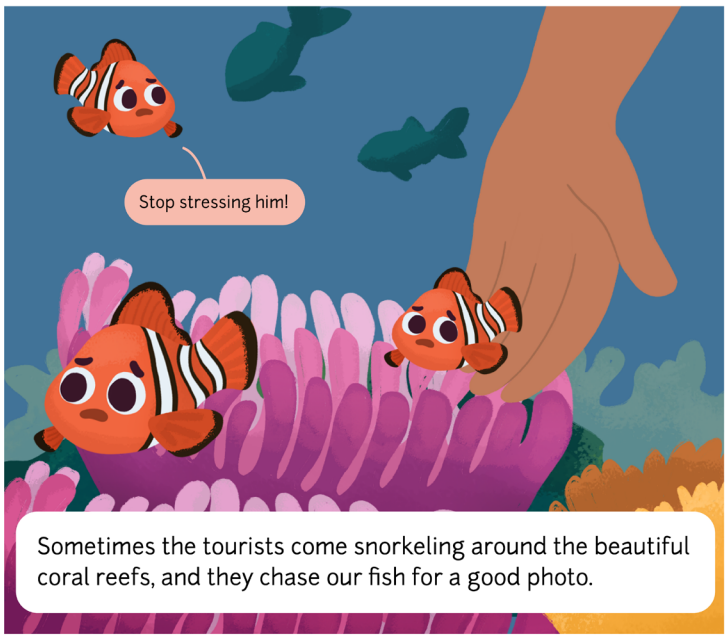
Well, this happens with a lot of people. They take seashells and corals from the beach, but not the rubbish.

To one person on the beach, it might not seem like such a big deal

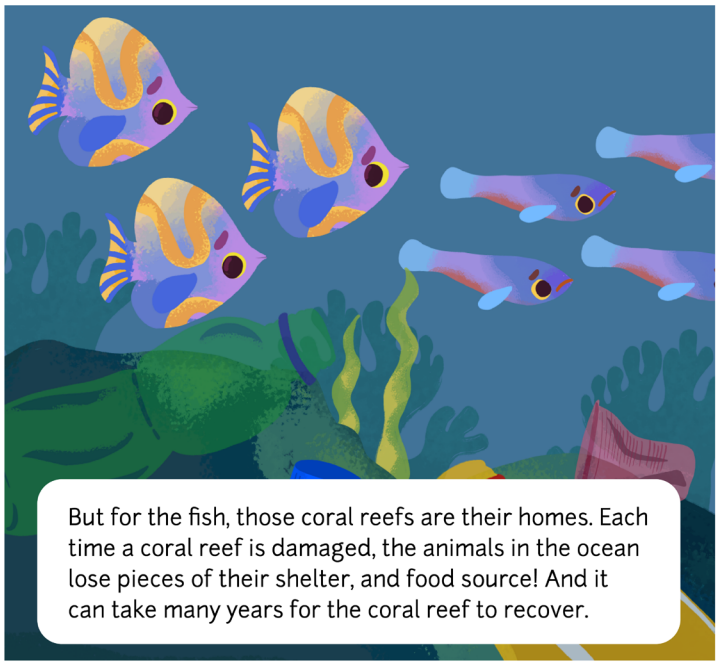
but after a while, all that's left on the beach is rubbish. Look at all the trash washed up on the beach!

All of that garbage from humans is overtaking not just the beach, but the coral reefs in the ocean too!

Rubbish isn't the only problem that we have with humans though, little Thazin.


Stop stressing him!
Sometimes the tourists come snorkeling around the beautiful coral reefs, and they chase our fish for a good photo.

Sometimes they break and damage the reef trying to take pictures, or even break off pieces of coral to take home.


But for the fish, those coral reefs are their homes. Each time a coral reef is damaged, the animals in the ocean lose pieces of their shelter, and food source! And it can take many years for the coral reef to recover.

Oh wow! No one has told me this before.

We should do something! I need to tell the other visitors, don't you think?

Yes, we need to tell everyone!
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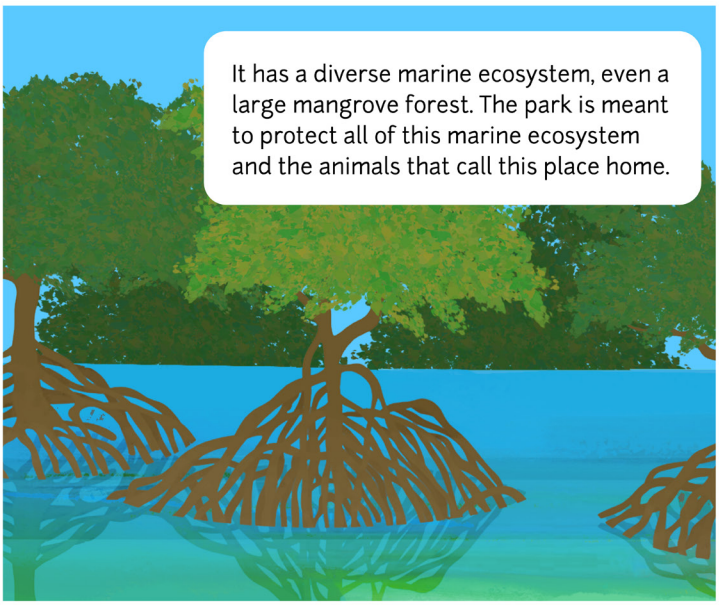
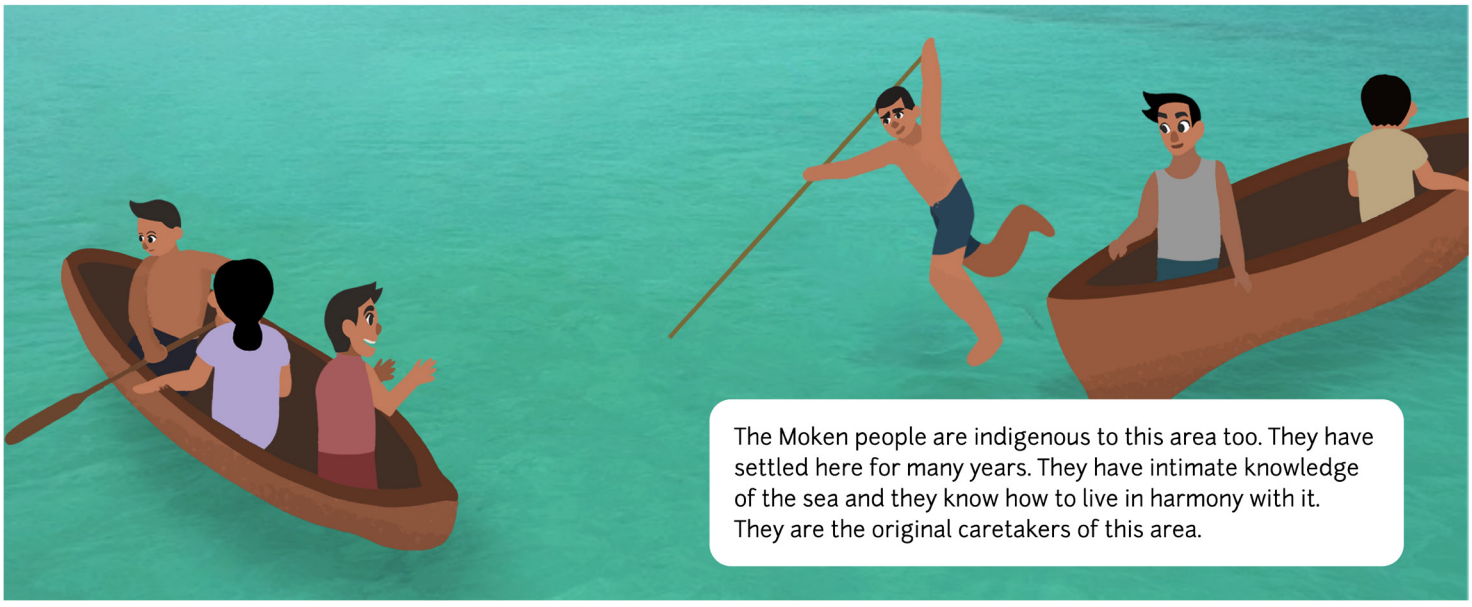
The beach here is actually part of the Lampi National Marine Park!


It has a diverse marine ecosystem, even a large mangrove forest. The park is meant to protect all of this marine ecosystem and the animals that call this place home.


The Moken people are indigenous to this area too. They have settled here for many years. They have intimate knowledge of the sea and they know how to live in harmony with it. They are the original caretakers of this area.

There are many similar parks in Myanmar's neighboring countries.
My friends there once told me that these parks have really strict rules.

They don't allow plastic bottles,

fishing is not allowed in some areas,

and boats are not allowed to anchor in the parks to make sure that the coral reefs are not damaged.

And there are big fines and even imprisonment for breaking the rules, like if someone is found harming endangered animals.

The tourists are not allowed to collect anything natural from the beach, like corals... and even those seashells.

Those rules and restrictions are there to help tourists become responsible travellers.
They need to learn how to be more considerate and not damage the animals and their ocean home during their visit!

Mmm, yes. I hope people will learn about all this and leave the ocean better than they found it!

We sure do hope so too. Anyway, bye for now, little Thazin!
Bye. Thank you for teaching me so much!