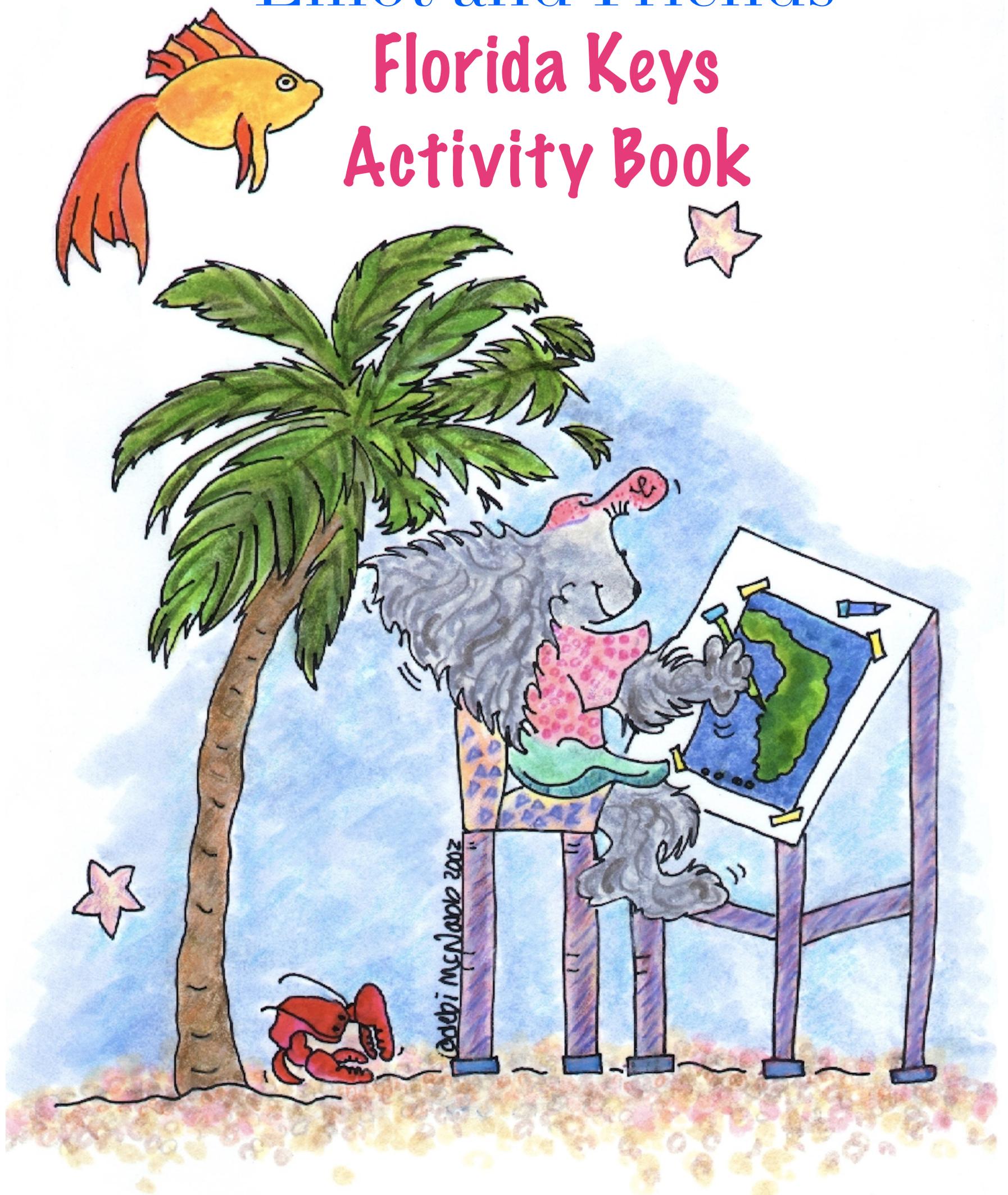


# Elliot and Friends

## Florida Keys Activity Book



written by jeffrey ault and elliot  
illustrated by debi mcnabb

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This activity book belongs to

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written by Jeffrey Ault and Elliot  
illustrated by Debi McNabb

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Hi!

My name is Elliot. I'm a big floppy eared dog who can fly! Cool, huh?!

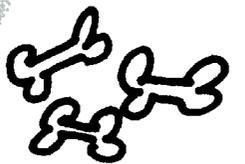
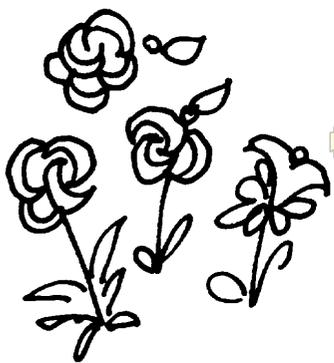
My friends and I travel through portals in my backyard to go on exciting adventures around the world, to space and under the sea. We have lots of fun while learning about nature, animals, science, art, history and all sorts of interesting things.

Today we are learning about the Florida Keys!  
So come join our adventures. It's time for fun!

Your friend,



ELLIOT



# The Florida Keys

The Florida Keys nickname is the Conch Republic. It is a chain of over 1,700 islands extending 220 miles southwest along the southern tip of Florida. The word "Key" comes from the Spanish word cayo or "small island."

The Upper Keys include Key Largo and Islamorada. Marathon Key is in the Middle Keys. Big Pine Key is in the Lower Keys and is home to the endangered Key Deer. The Lower Keys include Sugar Loaf Key and Key West. Key West is the southernmost city in the continental United States.

The Florida Keys were once part of a submerged coral reef. Six miles off the Florida Keys shore is the third largest barrier coral reef system in the world. It is the only living barrier reef in continental North America.

A trail of historic shipwrecks is scattered along the coral reefs off the Florida Keys. The shipwrecks buried in the sand tell us about how the ships were built, the passengers and the hard times sailors had navigating the waters. Shipwreck Trail is part of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, home to many reefs and marine life.

Have fun learning about the Florida Keys in this Activity Book!

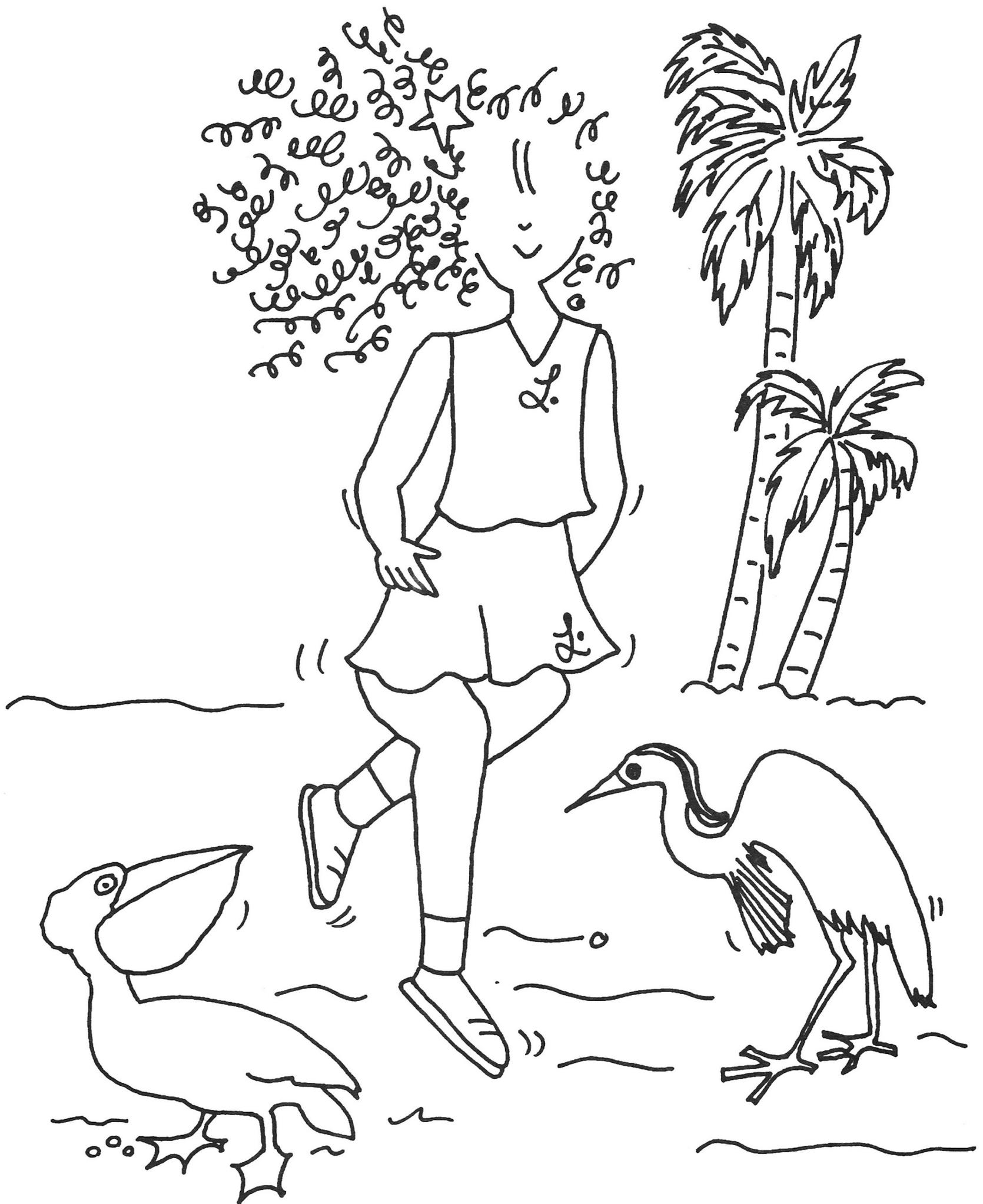




Elliot is having fun in the Conch Republic. The Florida Keys were discovered May 15, 1513 by the adventurer Ponce De Leon and Spanish writer Antonio de Herrera. For many years the Florida Keys were ruled by pirates. In 1822 the U.S. Navy pirate fleet was created to chase away pirates.

What animals do you think Elliot will see in the Florida Keys?

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Lily likes to exercise and run on the beaches in the Florida Keys. Her favorite place is the Islamorada Key beach where she can see birds such as white herons, spoonbills, pelicans, seagulls and ospreys.

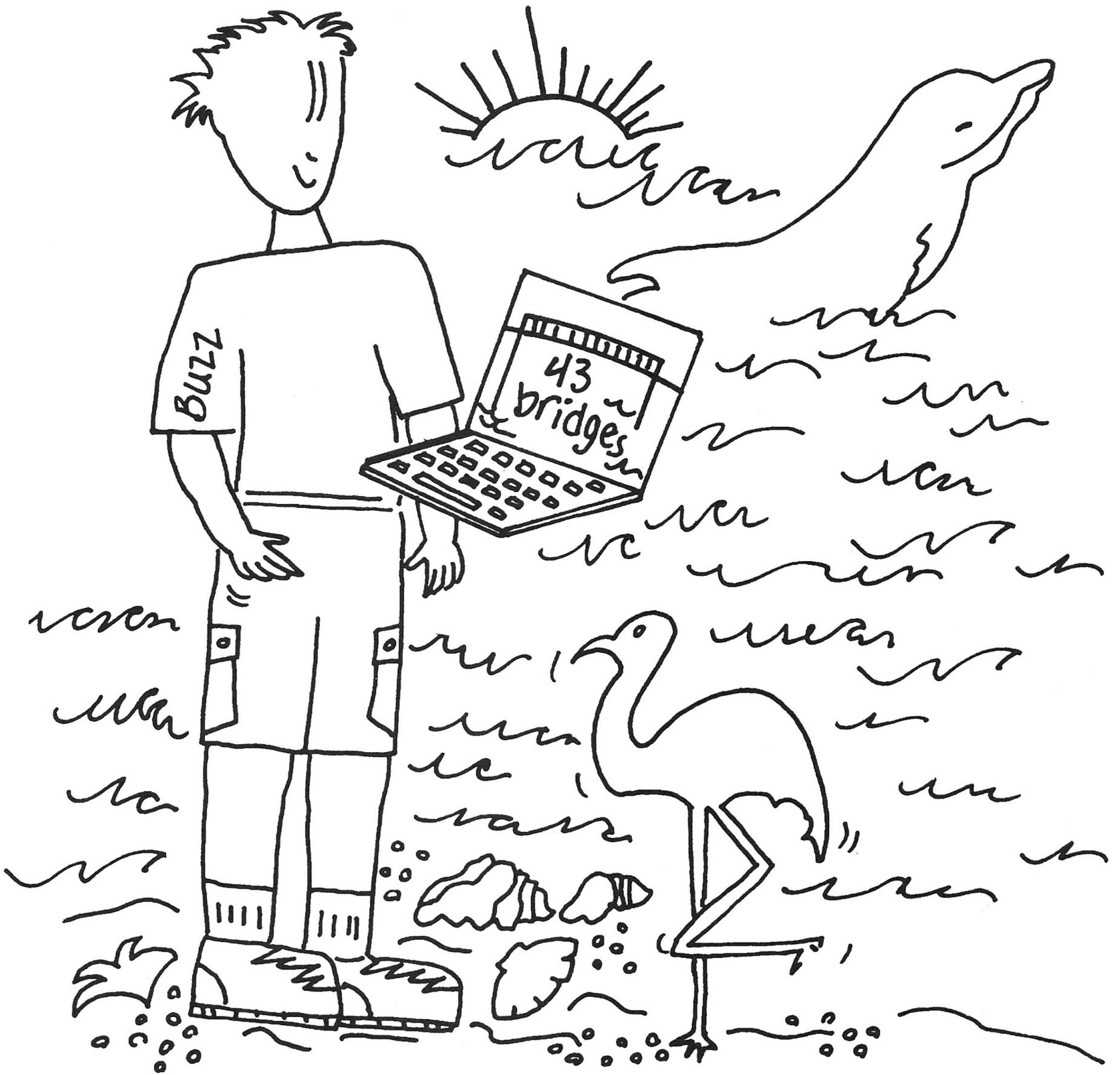
Do you know what pelicans eat? \_\_\_\_\_

## The Coral Reef

The coastal waters of the Keys, including coral reefs, make up Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Coral reefs are home to angelfish, lobster, crab, sea urchin, grouper, butterfly fish, octopus, turtles, jellyfish and many other types of underwater plants and animals. Coral reefs are very fragile. Coral needs clear, clean water to grow.



Can you help Lily find 5 seahorses?



Buzz has learned online that the Florida Keys chain of islands are connected by 43 bridges. Marathon Key is the home for the Seven Mile bridge that goes over the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

What is an animal you might see swimming in the waters as you cross a bridge? \_\_\_\_\_

# Buzz's Hidden Word Hunt

Help Buzz find words that pertain to the Florida Keys.  
Look across, down and diagonally.

Sea

Coral

Pirate

Fish

Sand

Crab

Beach

Conch

Bridge

P	I	R	A	T	E	M	B
T	U	R	T	L	E	L	E
B	F	L	O	R	I	D	A
R	F	I	S	H	S	O	C
I	C	O	R	A	L	L	H
D	X	R	D	M	A	P	Q
G	S	E	A	W	N	H	S
E	J	D	A	B	D	I	A
C	O	N	C	H	S	N	N
Z	M	E	R	M	A	I	D



Mermaid

Dolphin

Florida

Islands

Turtle



## See you at Sunset!

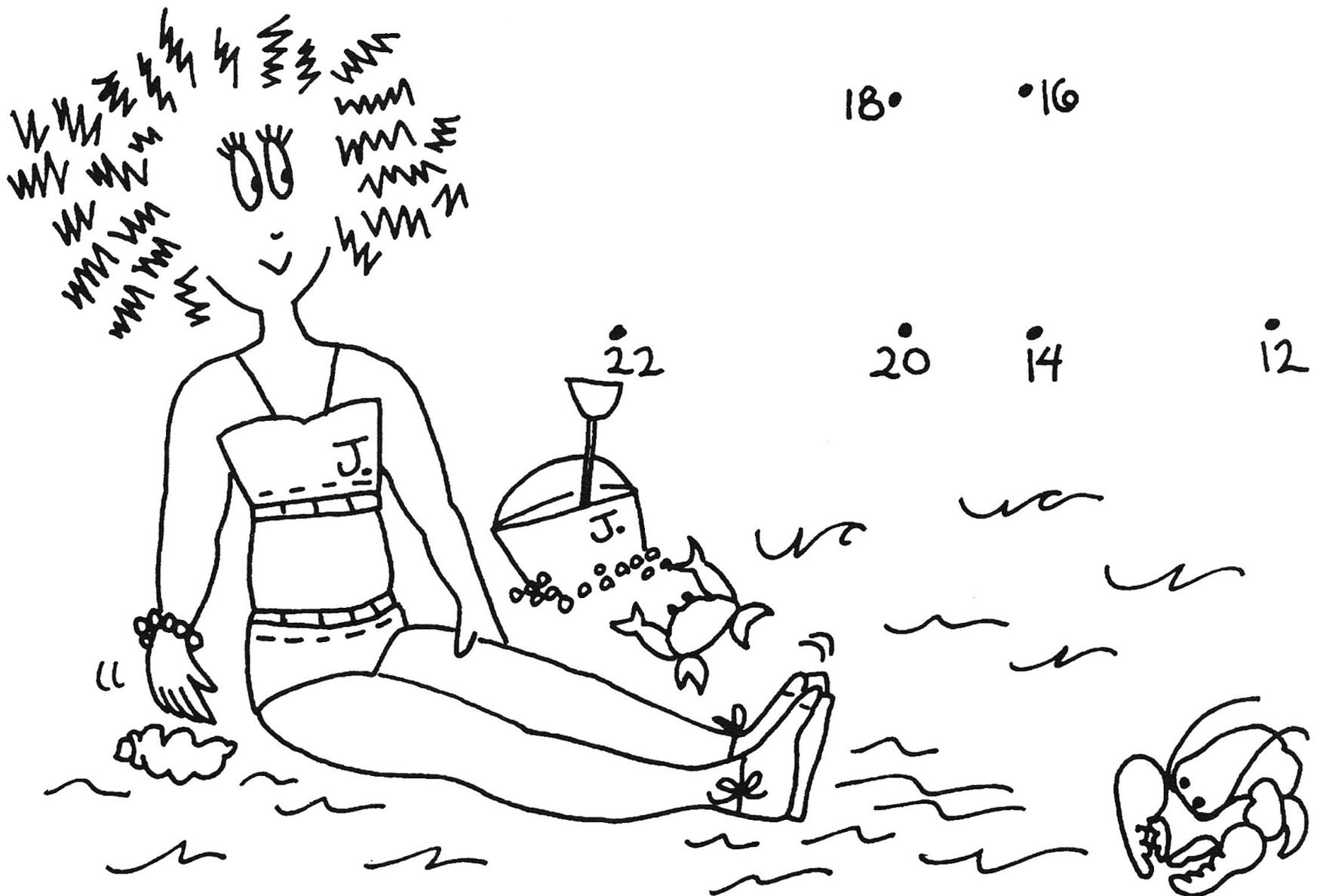
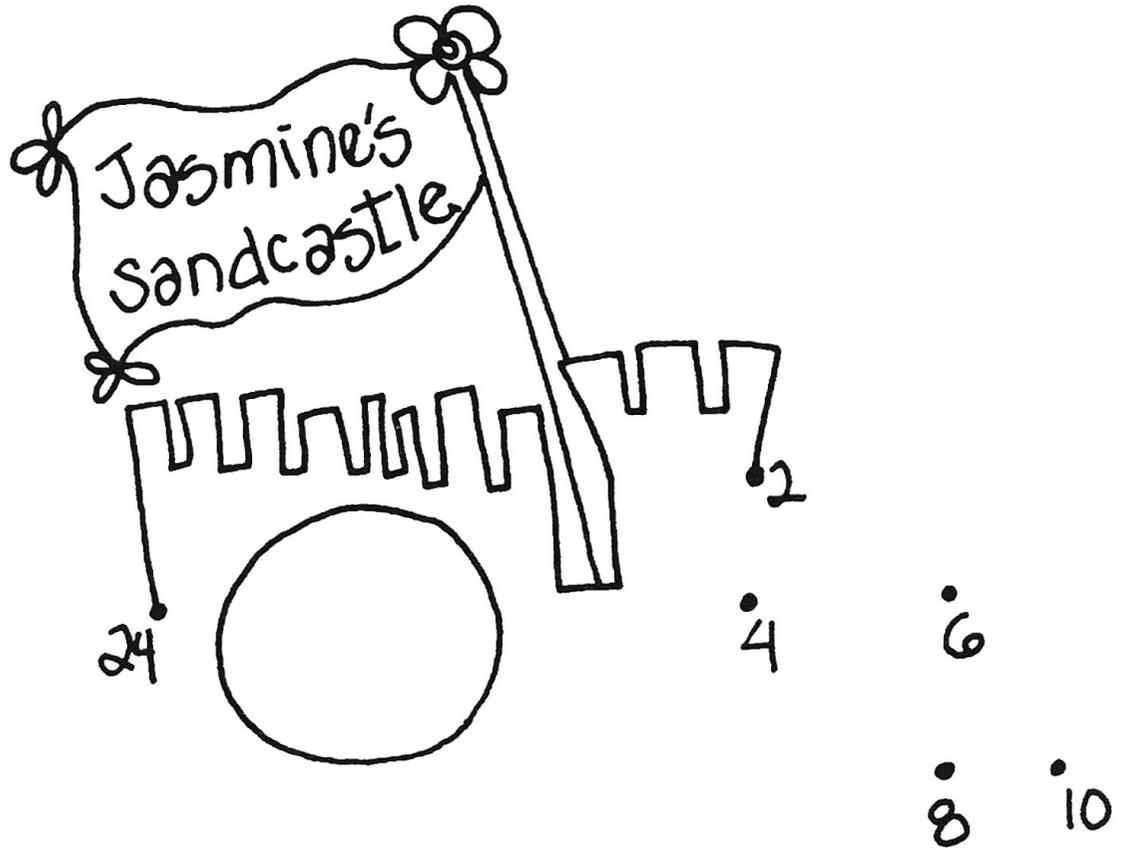


Jasmine enjoys watching the sunset at Mallory Square in Key West. Every night jugglers, dancers and other entertainers perform as the sky turns vibrant colors and the glowing red sun sinks into the Gulf of Mexico at sunset.

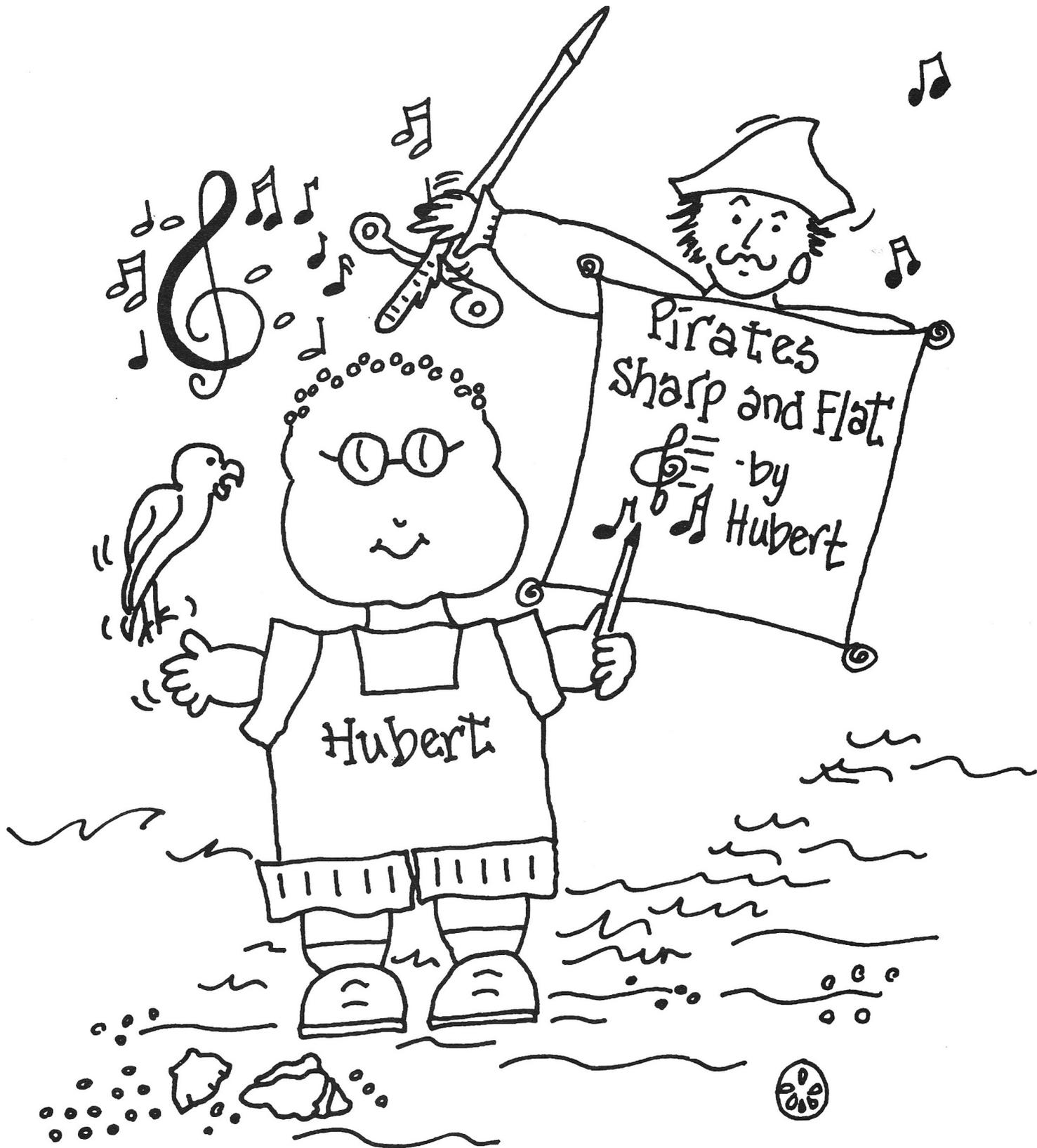
What are your favorite colors in a sunset? \_\_\_\_\_

# Connect the dots

Count by two's and connect the dots to help Jasmine build a sandcastle.



## Hubert has the Florida Keys beat!



Hubert is writing a song about the Florida Keys and wants to have a big steel drum band. The title of his song is Pirates Sharp and Flat. He wants to play the song at the annual underwater music festival in the Florida Keys.

What is your favorite song? \_\_\_\_\_

What musical instrument would you like to play? \_\_\_\_\_

# Hubert's Word Scramble

Help Hubert unscramble the letters.

1.    R   D   
A I O L F

9.  A     
M L P

2.  E     
Y S K

10.   E    
E R T

3.  O    H  
N C C

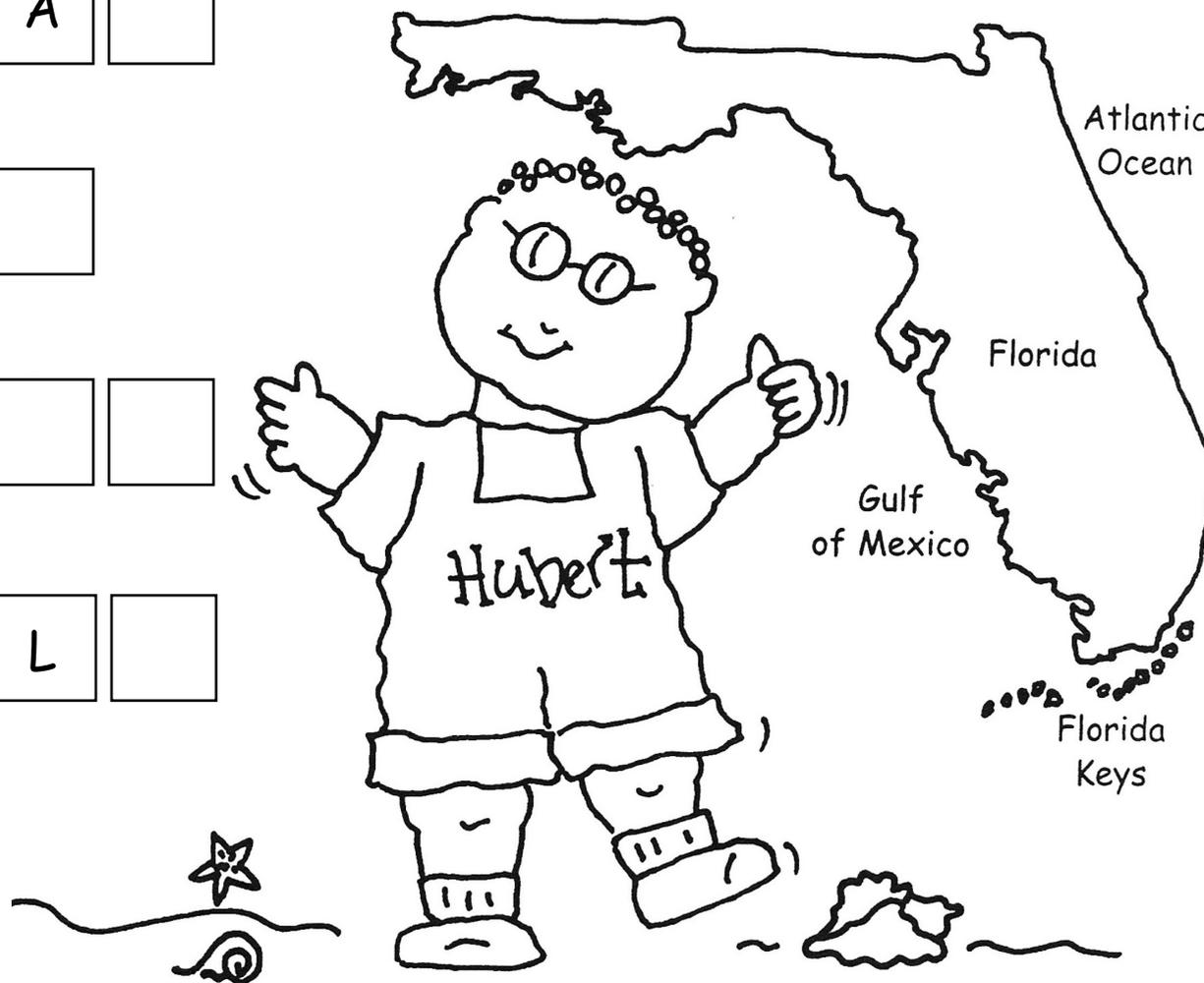
4.   L   N    C  
A T A T I

5. C    A   
R L O

6.   E    
F E R

7. O   E     
C N A

8. S    L    
H L E



Answers: Florida, keys, conch, Atlantic, coral, reef, ocean, shell, palm, tree



The southernmost point in the continental United States is in Key West, Florida. Key West is closer to Cuba than it is to Miami. The big buoy shaped marker showing 90 miles to Cuba is painted in red, black and yellow stripes. Ming enjoyed getting her photo taken at the marker.

Who would you like to get your photo taken with in Key West?

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## Ming's Story

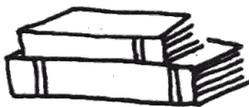


Ming wrote a story about a famous author who lived in Key West. She wrote some of it in pictograms. Can you fill in the blanks?

American novelist Ernest Hemingway lived in Key West, \_\_\_\_\_ from 1929 - 1939.



A novelist is an author who writes \_\_\_\_\_ called novels.



Ernest Hemingway \_\_\_\_\_ several of his famous books while living in Key West, including A Farewell to Arms, To Have and Have Not and The Snows of Kilimanjaro.



Besides writing, Ernest Hemingway liked to catch \_\_\_\_\_ when he went fishing in the clear waters off Key West.



Ernest Hemingway liked the \_\_\_\_\_ who lived in Key West.

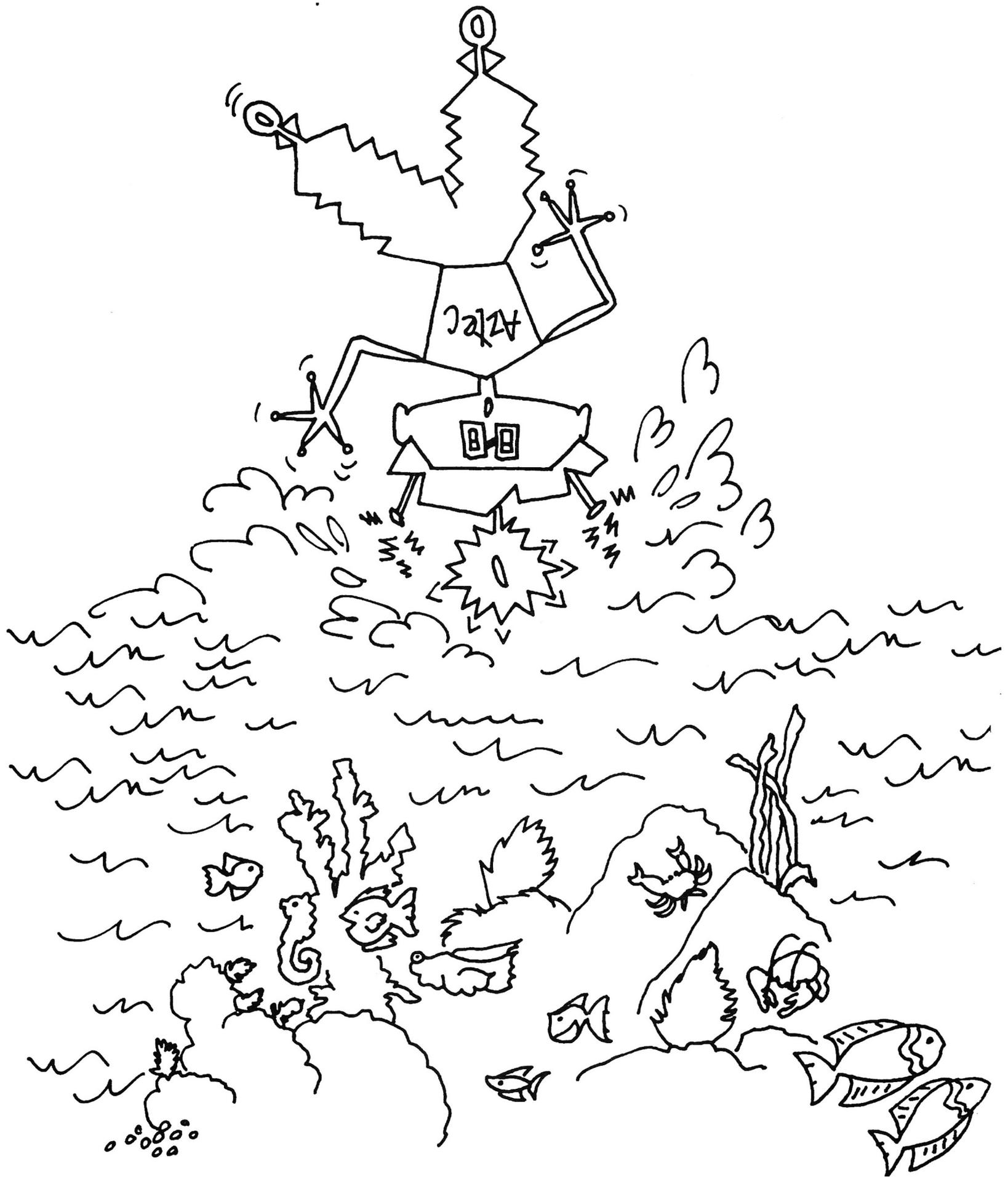


He was inspired by the tiny Bahama Village \_\_\_\_\_ that were very different from his Whitehead Street Mansion.



Six-toed \_\_\_\_\_ lived at his home. Ernest Hemingway's home is now a museum and several of the six-toed decedents still make the museum their home.



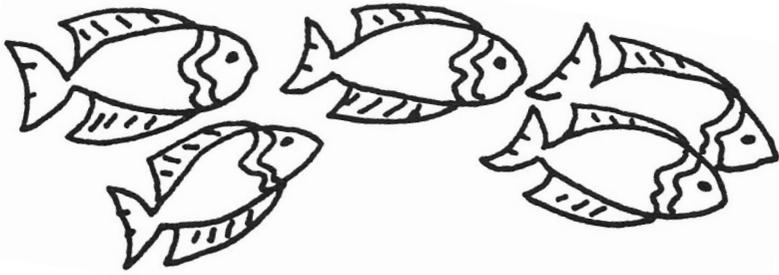


Aztec is visiting John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first underwater preserve in the United States. It is located in the Atlantic Ocean off Key Largo, the longest island of the Florida Keys.

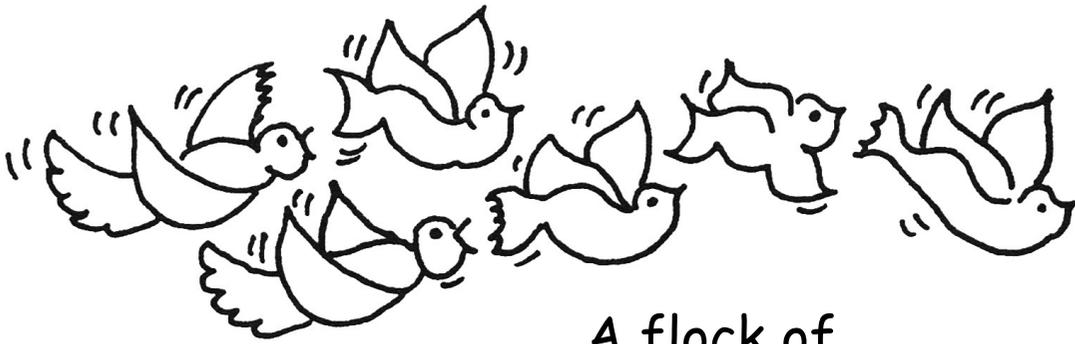
Can you find 7 fish and 1 seahorse swimming in the reef?

# Aztec's Name the Animal Groups

Help Aztec learn to name these animal groups by filling in the blanks.

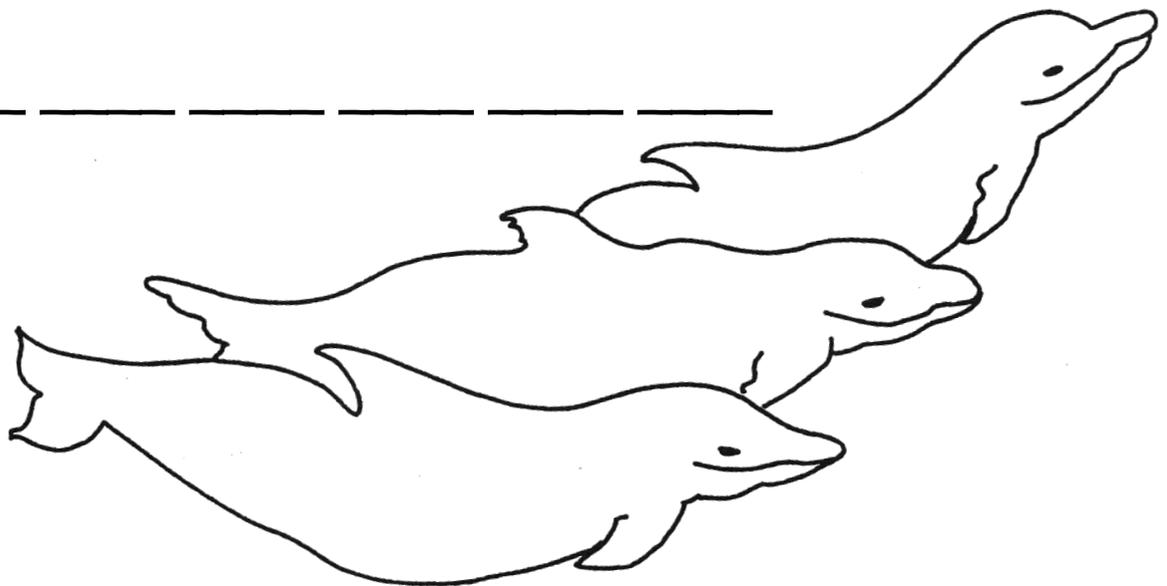


A school of \_\_\_\_\_



A flock of \_\_\_\_\_

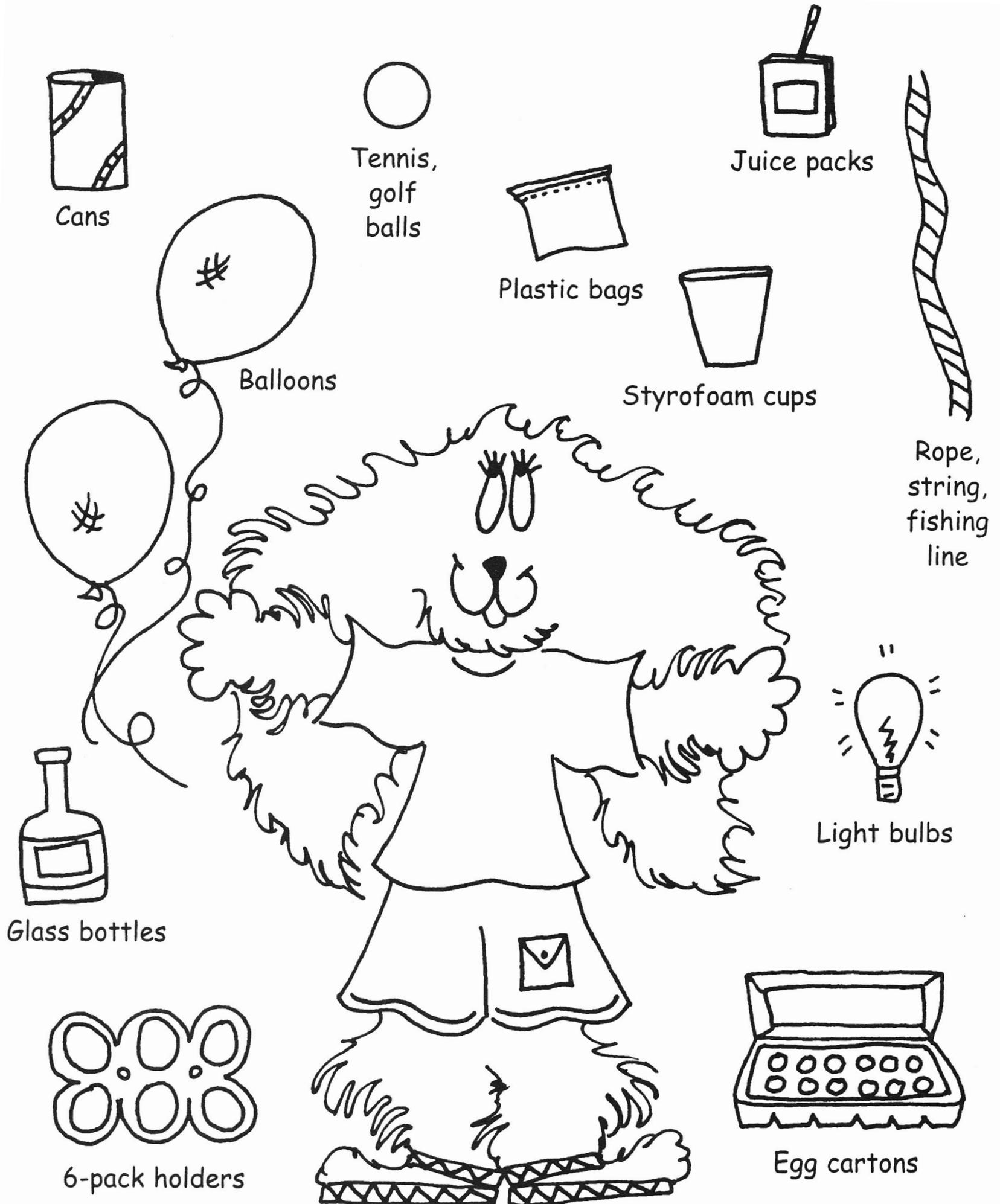
A pod of \_\_\_\_\_



Answers: fish, birds, dolphin

# Trash

Trash found on the beach is called Marine debris. Marine debris can harm sea life and pollute the ocean. Can you circle the items that should not be left on the beach?



## Pirate Treasure

Long ago in the 1800's many treasure ships wrecked on the shallow reefs of the Florida Keys. While visiting the Florida Keys, Elliot and her Friends meet a man named Lucky. Look at the pictures and fill in the blanks to find out more about Lucky and what they did on their adventure.

Lucky is a



\_\_\_\_\_.

He has a



\_\_\_\_\_ named Winkie.

He takes the friends out to sea on his.

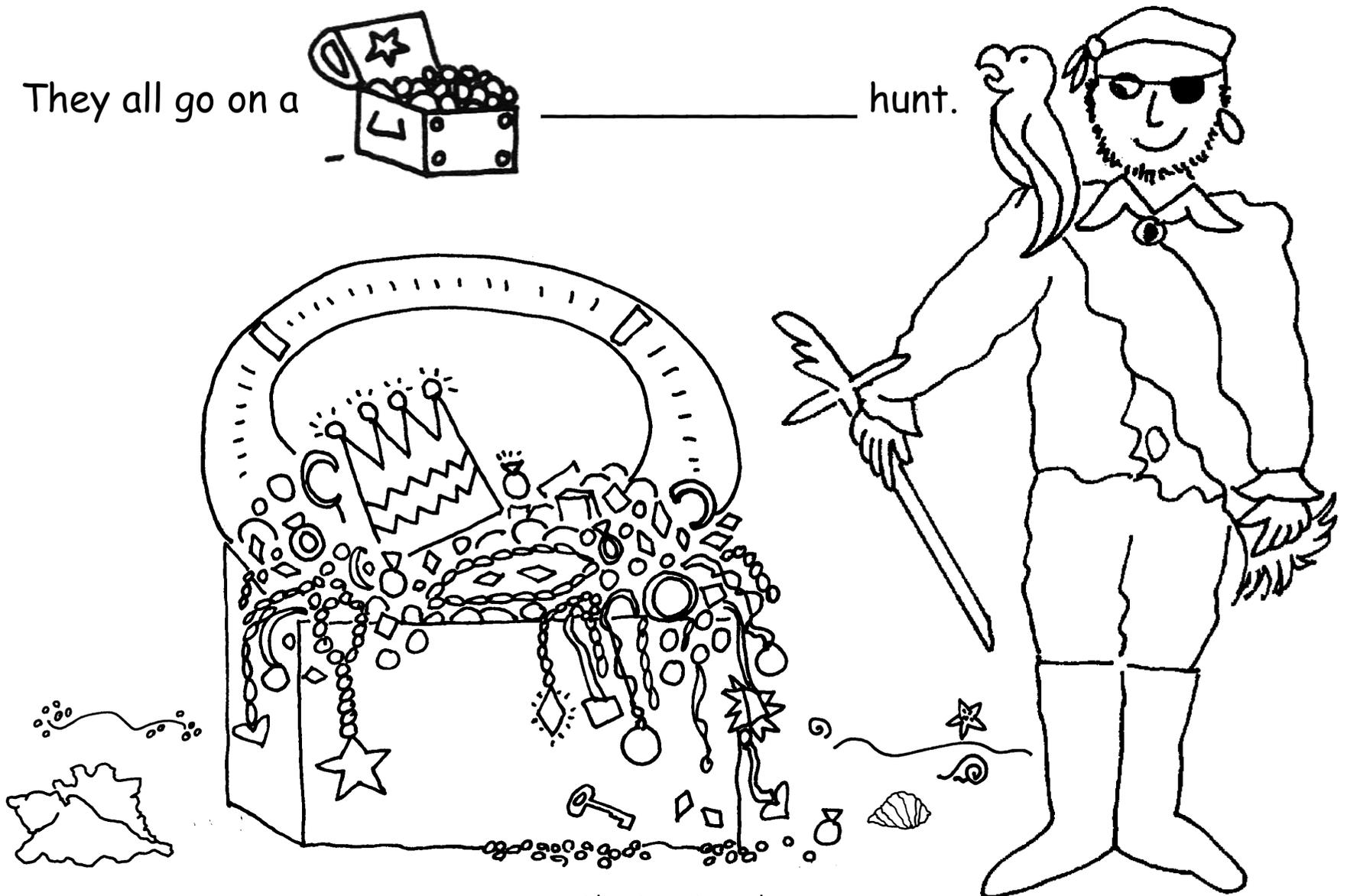


\_\_\_\_\_.

They all go on a



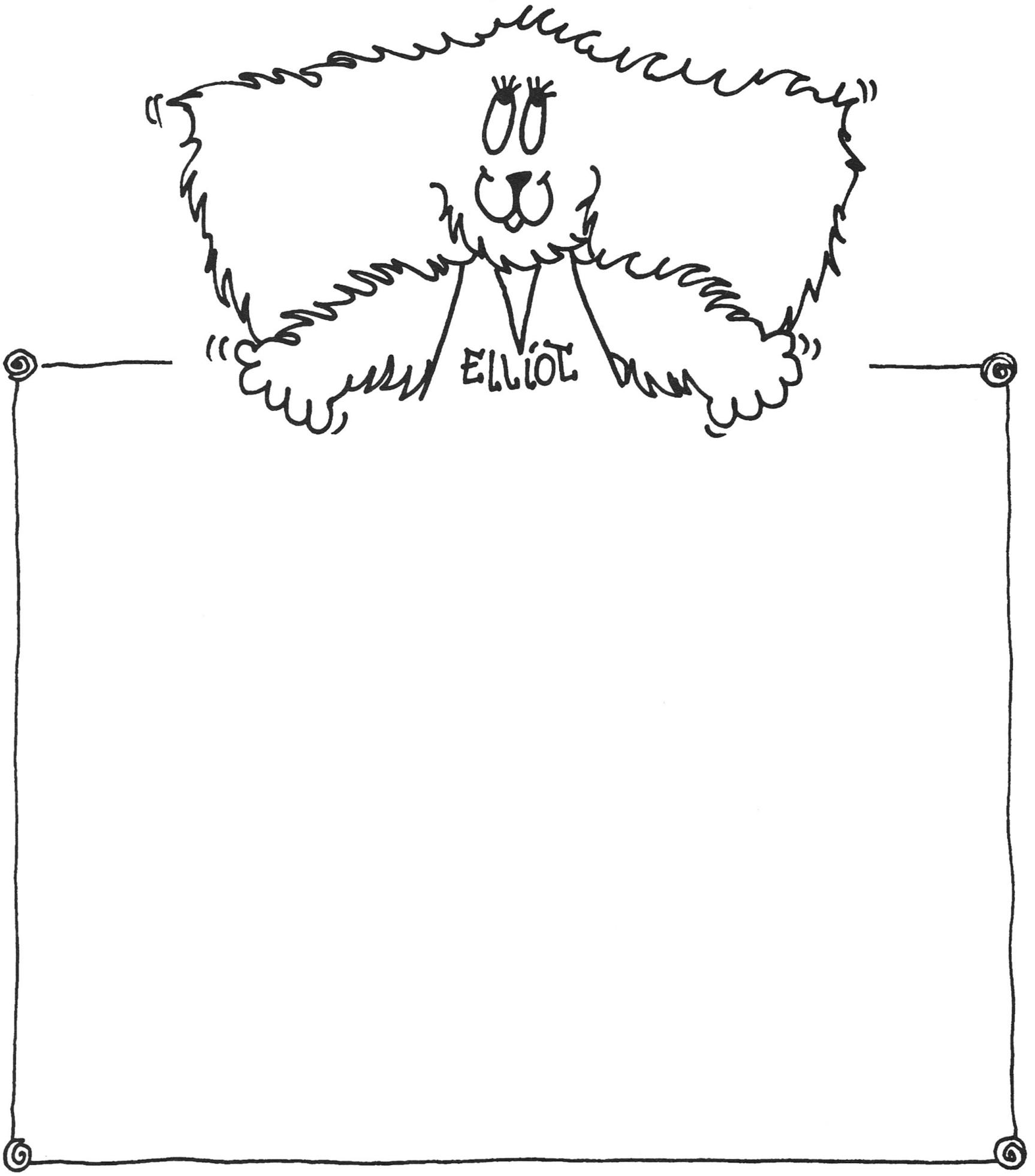
\_\_\_\_\_ hunt.



Answers: pirate, bird, ship, treasure

# Florida Keys Adventure Self Portrait

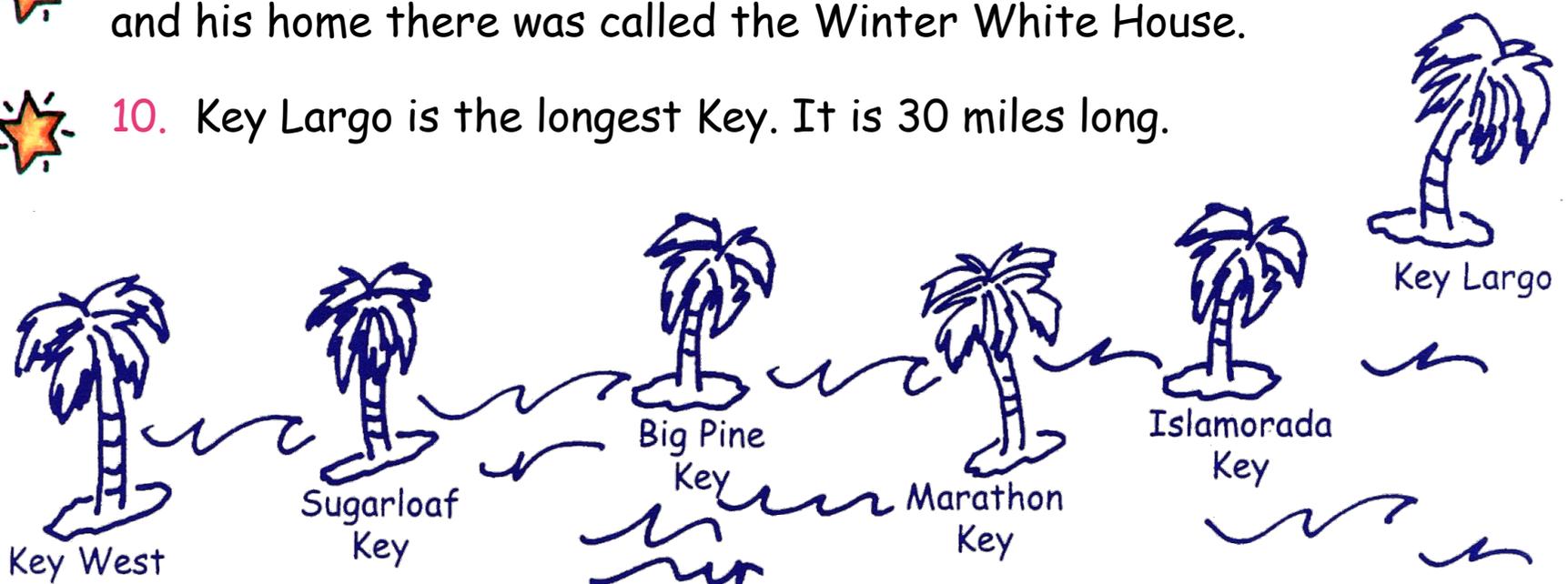
Elliot likes to draw. Draw a picture of yourself having fun in the Florida Keys.



Name of Artist \_\_\_\_\_

# Florida Keys Fun Facts

1. Famous American writers Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams and Robert Frost lived in Key West.
2. In 1832 artist John James Audubon painted the wildlife of the Florida Keys. Today many artists live and work in Key West.
3. The Key West and Great Heron National Wildlife Refuges help protect birds and sea turtle nests.
4. There are over 90 different types of coral in the waters off the Florida Keys. Corals are fragile and can be damaged by disease, pollution or by people touching the coral.
5. The southernmost point in the United States is 90 miles from Havana, Cuba.
6. The nine sites of Shipwreck Trail are the Benwood, Duane, Eagle, Adelaide Baker, Thunderbolt, Amesbury, North America, San Pedro and The City of Washington.
7. Sugarloaf Key is named for the sugarloaf pineapples that once grew there.
8. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is 178 miles of protected ocean waters.
9. President Truman made 11 visits to Key West during his presidency and his home there was called the Winter White House.
10. Key Largo is the longest Key. It is 30 miles long.





## Calling All Kids!

Children and kids of all ages are invited to visit Elliot and Friends on [Facebook](#) to discover other fun activities and adventures.

  
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