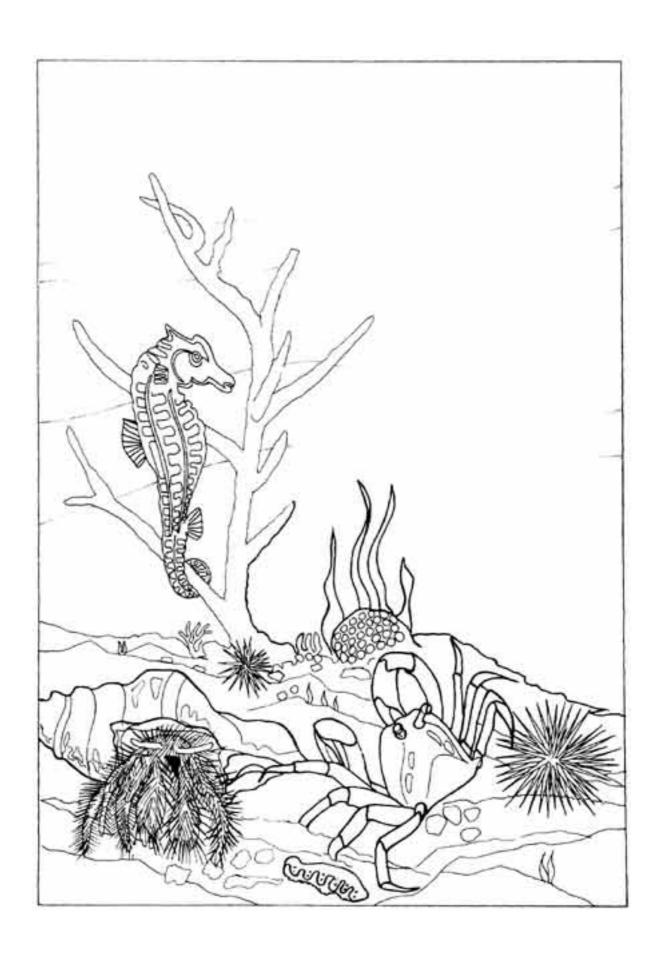
17- رَبَرَنَامُونِ عِنْ ثِرْوَ شِوْرِ سُرُونِ مِنْ رِ

17. ANIMALS THAT DO NOT MOVE

Some of the animals that live on the reef cannot move about freely. They are fixed to the reef or a rock. So they must trap their food from the seawater around them.

The sponge, the oyster and the barnacle are all such animals. They act like strainers by sucking into their bodies water which is full of bits of food and then letting the water drain out, holding back the food they need.

Sea anemones are like coral polyps, but they don't have a hard shell. They spend their time fixed to rocks or to dead coral or even buried in the sand. Their tentacles search the waters, to trap small passing fish.



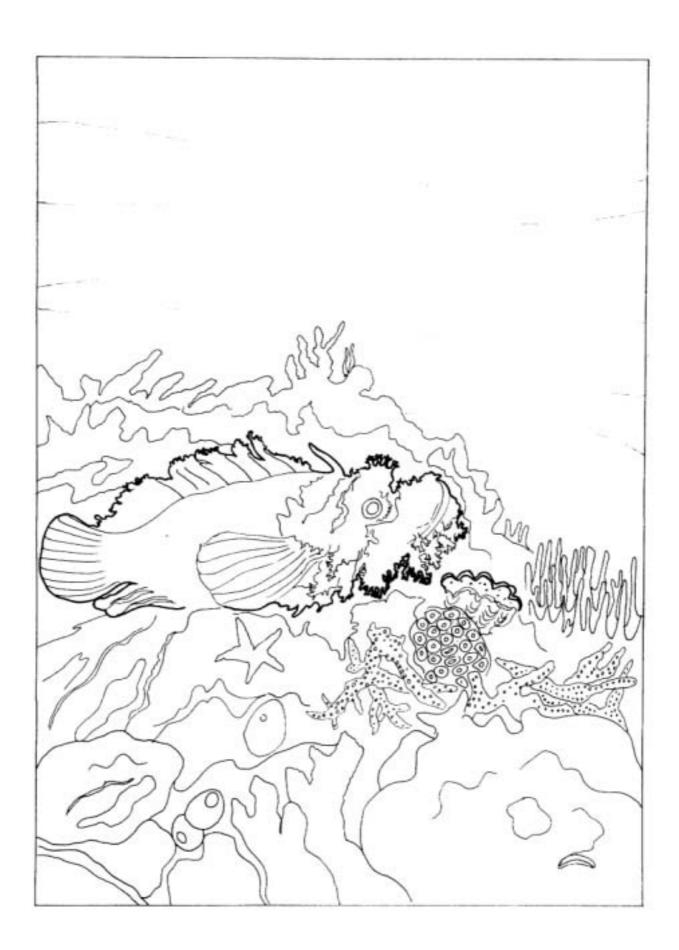
18- عَنْهُ عُرْدِةُ سُرسُر وَرِسْ وِيْرَكْدُرْكُومِ

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18. CREEPERS AND CRAWLERS

Starfish, sea urchins, snails and various kinds of small crabs crawl about on the coral reef. Among them is also a creature called the Hermit Crab. This animal does not have a shell of its own. So it moves from one empty snail shell to another as it grows. Some animals that live on the reef like to stay hidden by day, and come out only at night to feed.

The most unusual fish you will see in a coral reef is the Sea Horse. It swims upright, very slowly, and moves about hunting shrimps. Its tail is used like an arm, to cling on to something, and the male has a pouch where eggs are fertilized and kept until birth.

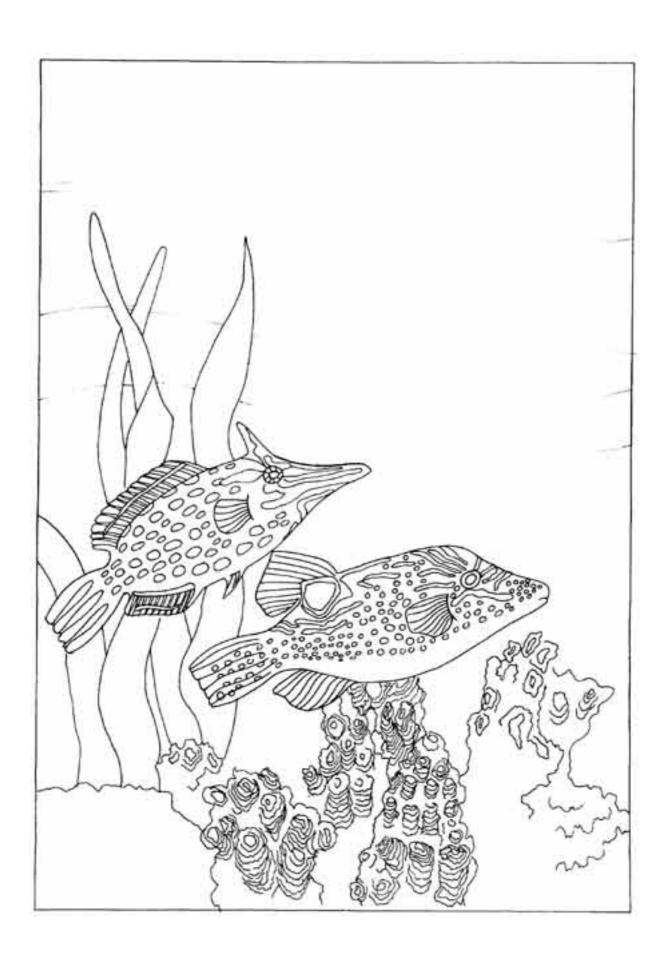


19- روشر

19. HIDING

Have you noticed that ALL the creatures on a coral reef are not easy to spot? Why is this? You must have seen that many fish are almost the same colour as the corals and plants amongst which they live. Some of them are even shaped like coral. This helps them to move about without being seen, and, in turn, helps them to hide and hunt more easily. It also helps them to hide from their hunters. Taking on the surrounding colours and shapes to be able to hide better is called **CAMOUFLAGE.** Many Butterflyfish and Angelfish are striped. The lines help them to hide in branching corals.

Here is how camouflage also helps a fish to catch its food. The Stonefish lies so still amidst coral of nearly its colour that many tiny animals think it is a clump of coral. When these creatures swim close to the Stonefish, it traps them quite easily.



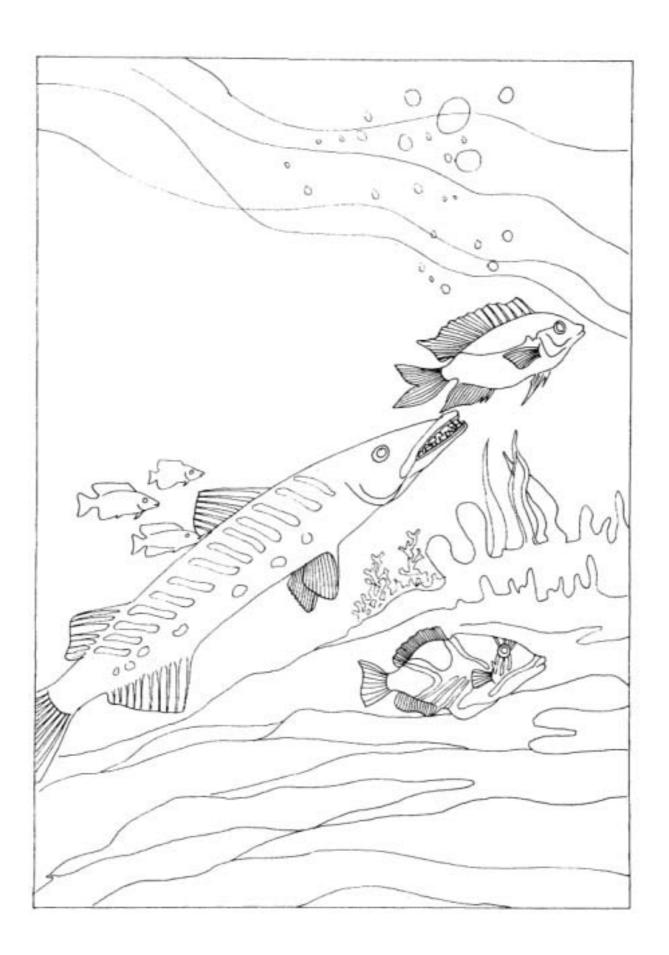
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20. PRETENDING

MIMICRY is copying or pretending to be something else. This is a clever way for a fish to escape from a hunter.

To understand it, let us look at a clever pair of fish. One is called the Filefish, the other is called the Sharpnose Pufferfish. They look a lot alike and are usually found in the same places.

The Filefish is chased because it is a good meal. But no creature hunts the Sharpnose Puffer because it is poisonous. So how does the Filefish escape? Because its enemy THINKS it is the Sharpnose Puffer and leaves it alone.



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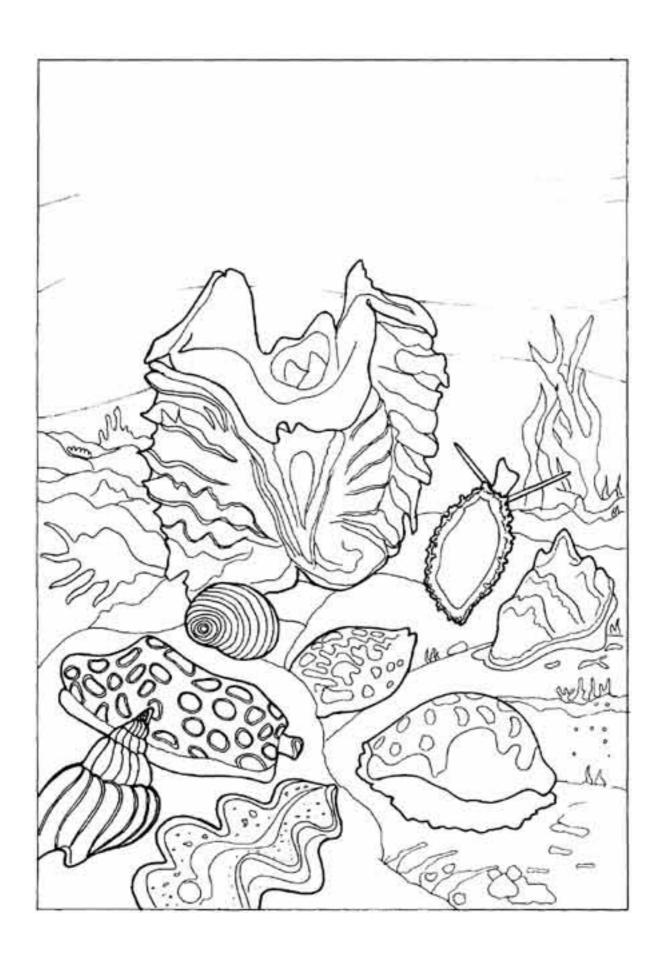
21. GUARDING THEIR HOME

Most reef fish often look upon a particular part of the coral reef as 'belonging' to them. They move about freely, looking for food, in a fixed area around this piece of coral. It, thus, over a period of time, becomes their home. They do not let any other fish or creature enter their home. This is particularly so when they are reproducing; that is when they most want to prevent any other fish from coming into their home.

Look for the Damselfish and see how they behave, Even though they are tiny, an army of them will attack a much larger creature if it enters their home area.

Silver-coloured Barracuda turn dark when other fish enter their territory. Their jaws begin to snap, they shake their heads and charge the 'visitor'. In this way they try to frighten the 'visitor'.

This behaviour is very common amongst reef fish. It is known as **TERRITORIALITY.**



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22. NATURE'S ARMOUR

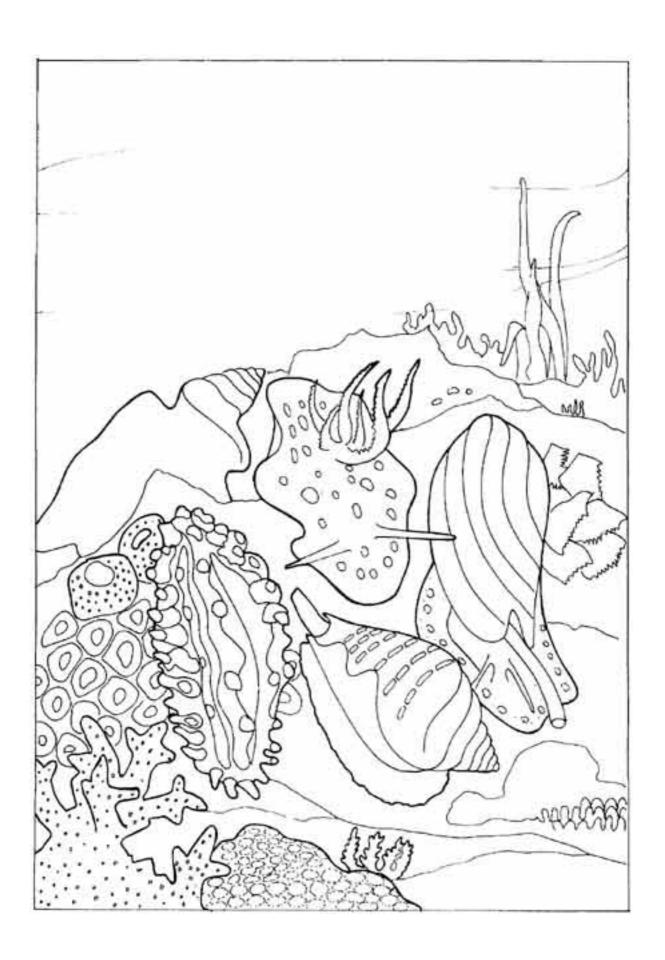
The shells on our beaches were all once the homes of soft-bodied animals. Shells protect the soft bodies of the animals from harm; they are like armour.

We call the rather small animals that have shells, that serve as their homes as well as their armour, **MOLLUSCS**. The mollusc's shell grows as the animal inside it grows. A special part of its shell is called its **GLAND**. These glands also produce the wonderful colours the shells have.

Turtles also have shells for protection, but a turtle is not a mollusc.

Shells come in strange and beautiful shapes. That is why shell-collecting is a popular hobby. There are many valuable private collections. Some countries have shell museums as well.

Some kinds of cowrie shells were once used as money in the South Pacific, parts of Africa and even in the Maldives.



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23. SNAILS AND SLUGS

Though snails are found on land as well as in water, the snails of the coral reefs are the most beautiful. They have brightly coloured shells (yellow, blue, pink, brown, black and purple). These shells are used to make jewellery, curios, ornamental items and buttons. Some of these beautiful items are sold to foreign countries. In some countries they even eat certain snails.

Sea slugs are like snails $_$ but do not have shells. They too come in beautiful colours. In the underwater world, such bright colours are often a signal. Such creatures may not be safe to eat. They may not taste good. So colours are a warning to other animals not to eat them.

