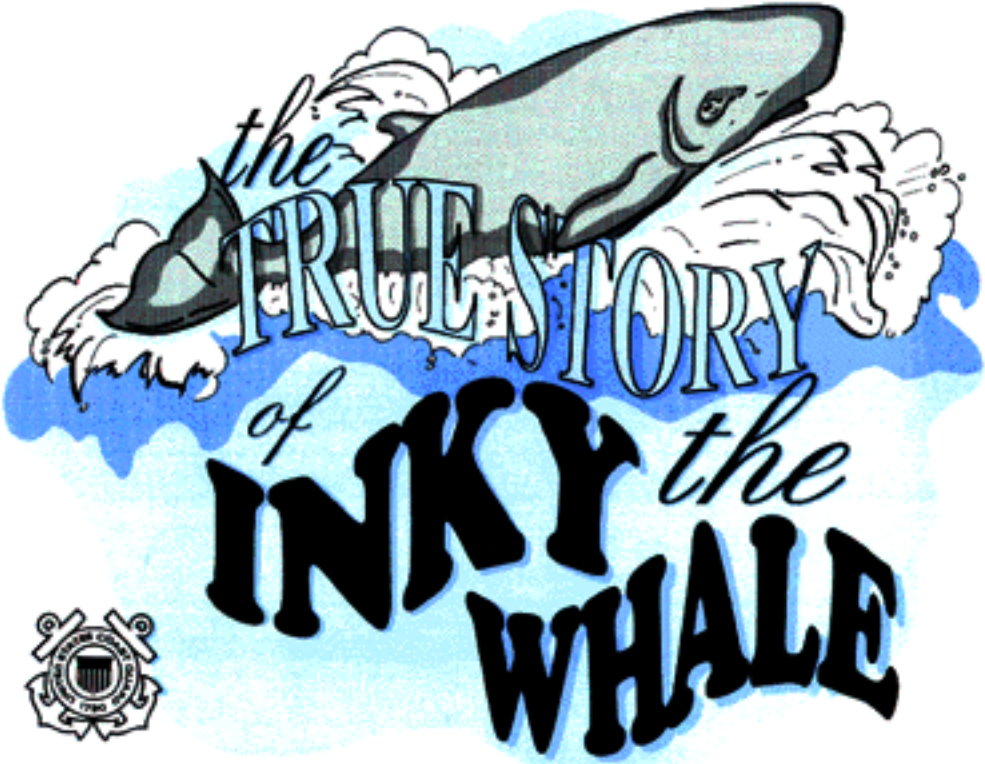
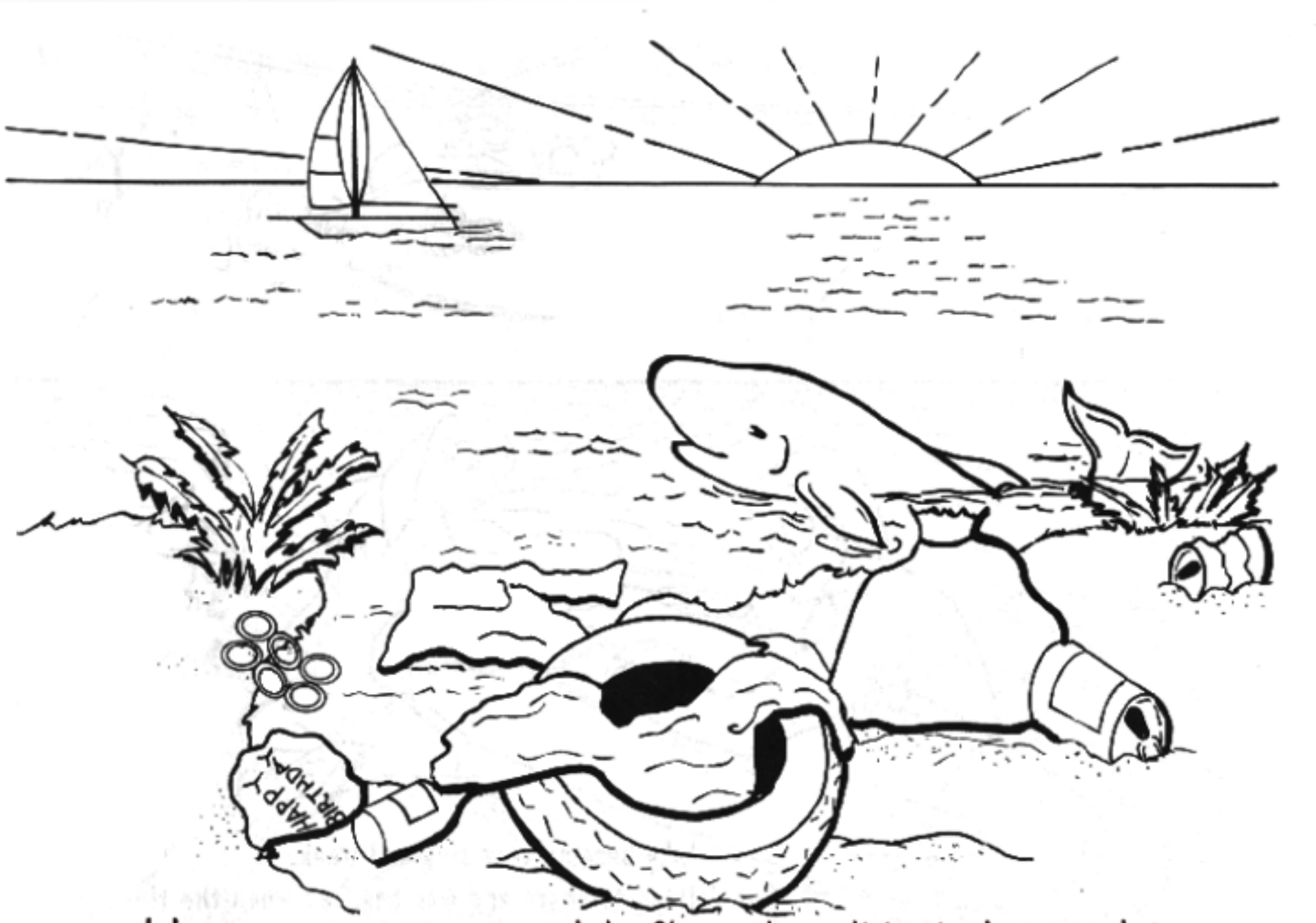
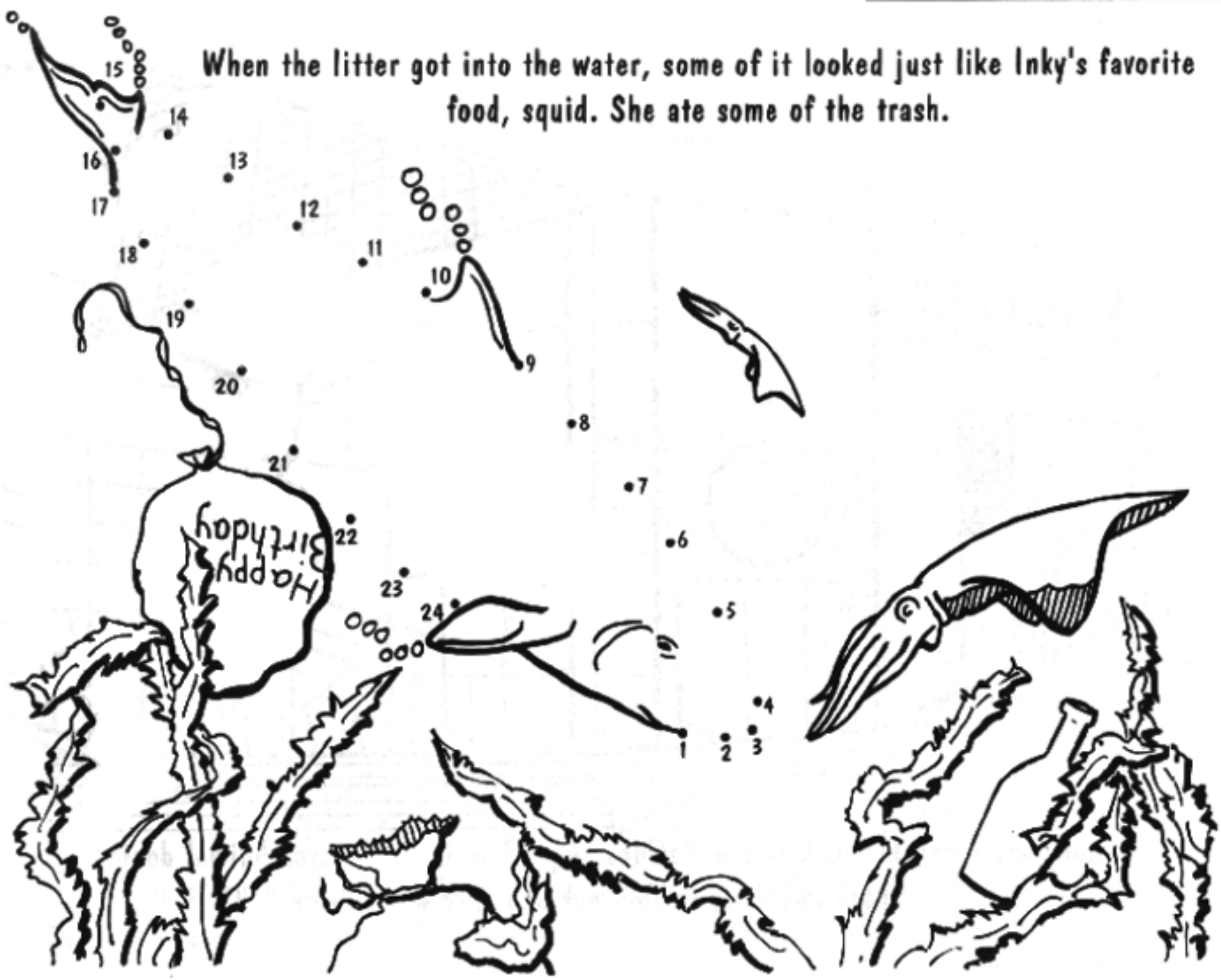

the TRUE STORY
of INKY the WHALE

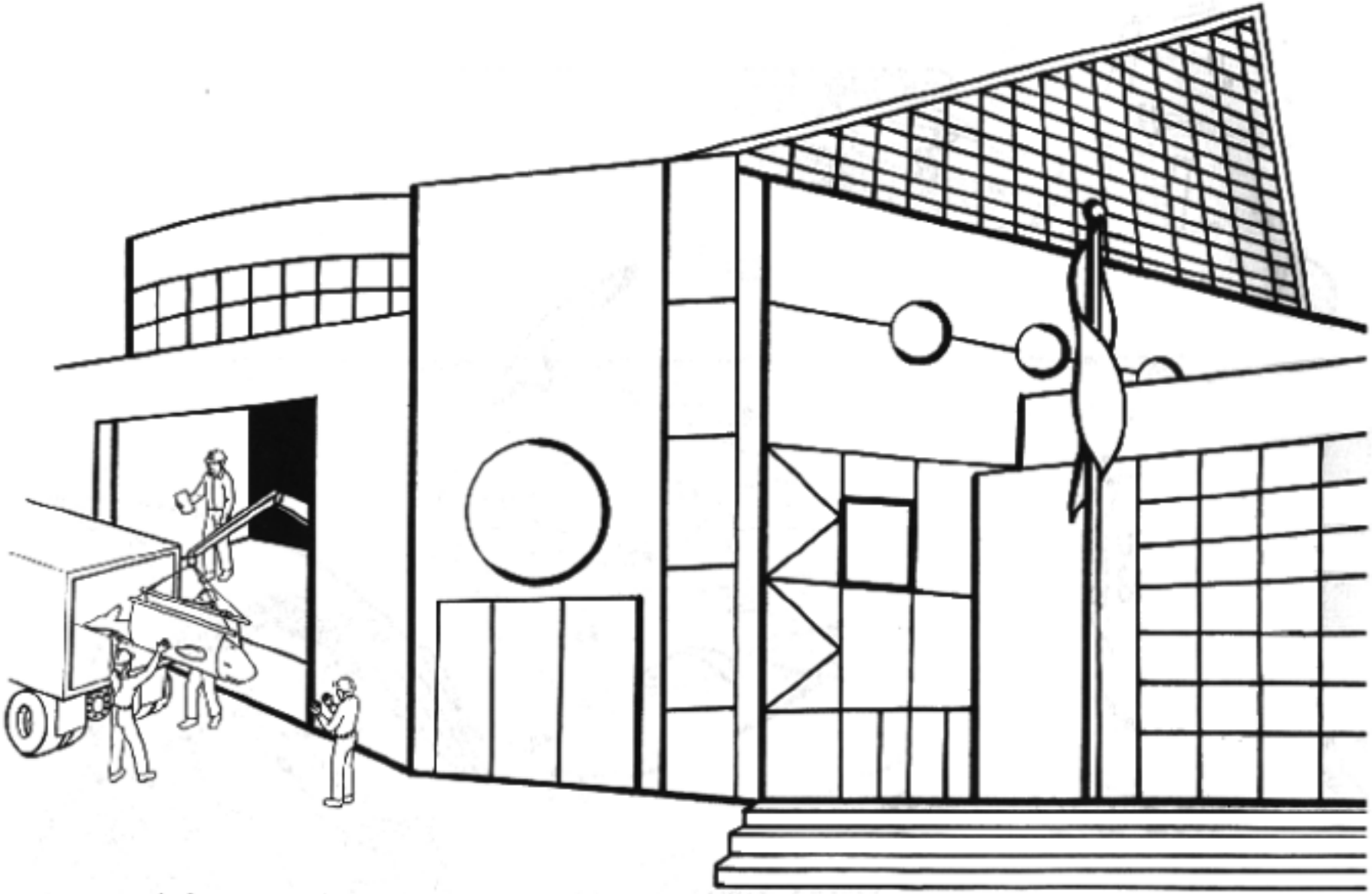



Inky was a young pygmy sperm whale. She was happy living in the ocean, but careless people left litter on the shore and in the water.

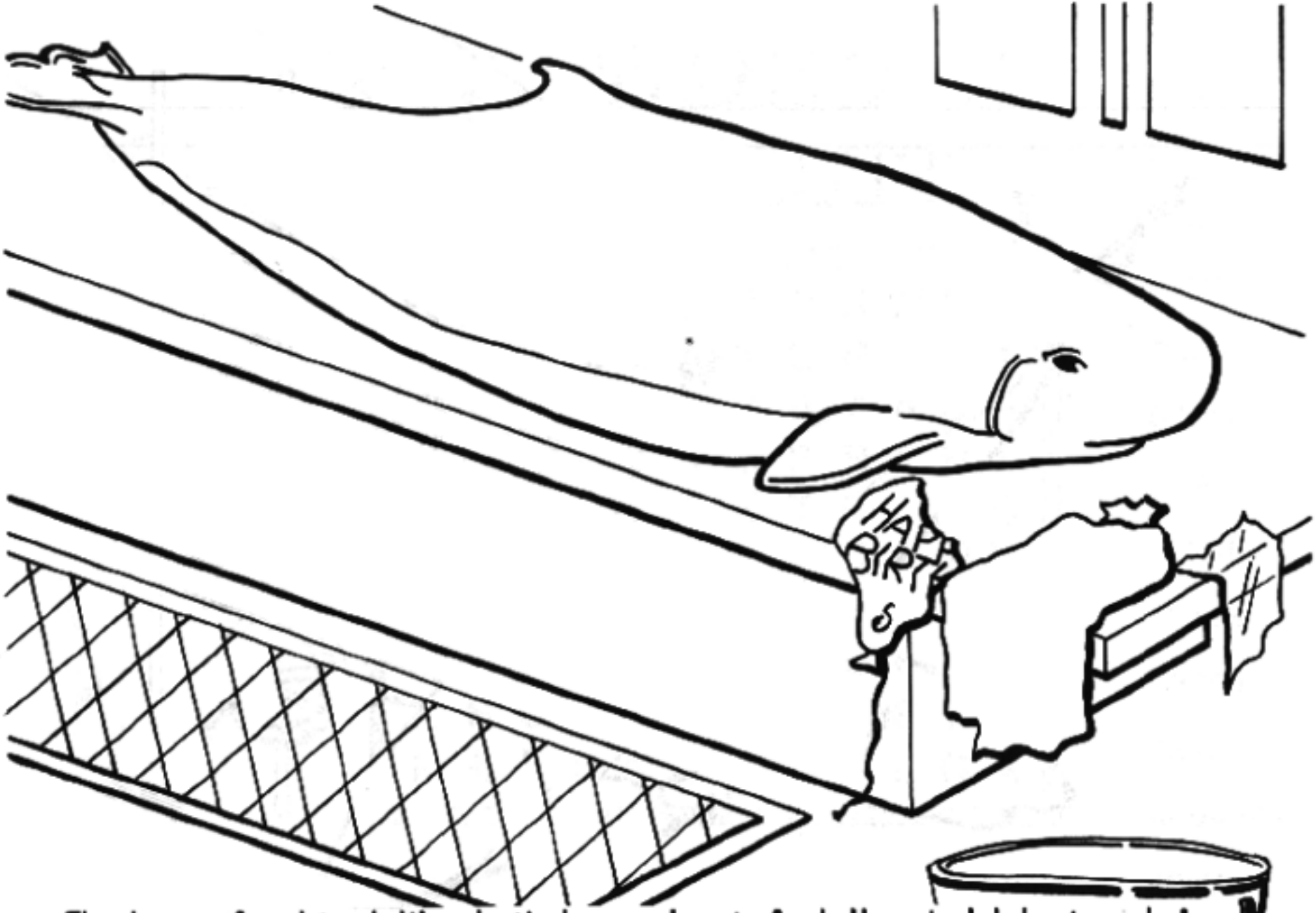
Inky became very sick and weak.
She drifted to shore and was beached when the tide
went out. People found her there and decided to try and save her.
They called a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to lift her off the beach.

When the litter got into the water, some of it looked just like Inky's favorite food, squid. She ate some of the trash.

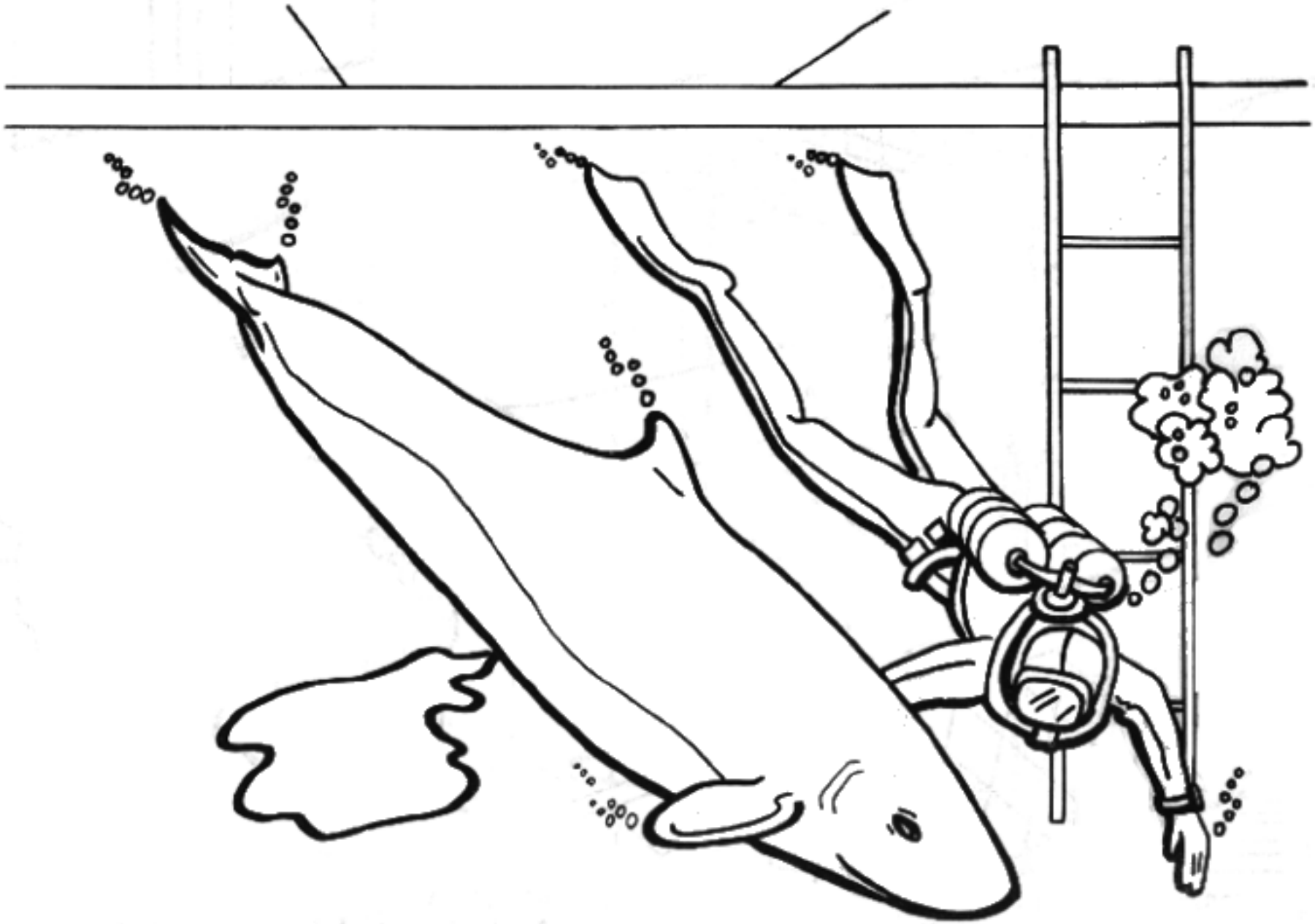




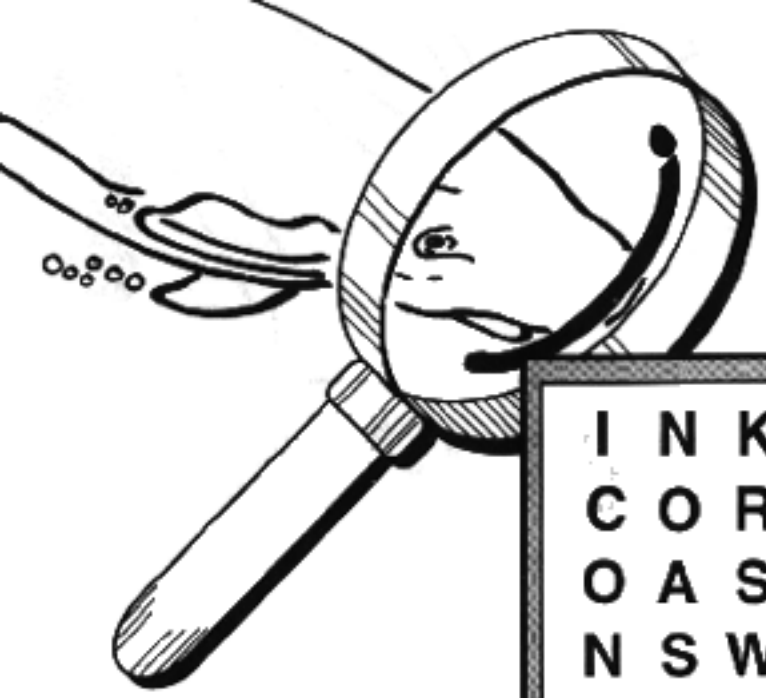
Inky was taken by truck to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Animal doctors there would try to find out why Inky was so sick.




The doctors found trash like plastic bags and part of a balloon in Inky's stomach. The trash blocked her stomach so she could not eat. That was why she was so sick.



After her stomach was cleared, Inky began to eat again. Soon she started to gain weight, swim around her pool, and produce the "ink" that she was named for.



# WORD HUNT

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | N | K | Y | A | S | O | P | K | W | M | H |
| C | O | R | T | L | A | K | L | R | H | S | T |
| O | A | S | B | V | T | O | A | V | A | S | R |
| N | S | W | A | C | C | B | S | R | L | H | E |
| S | N | I | K | E | T | K | T | R | E | I | C |
| E | V | M | A | D | A | K | I | D | L | P | Y |
| R | L | N | Z | W | S | I | C | K | J | C | C |
| V | R | E | T | T | I | L | K | L | K | S | L |
| E | S | Q | U | I | D | O | N | A | P | K | E |
| M | T | F | R | M | U | I | R | A | U | Q | A |

CONSERVE

INKY

RECYCLE

WHALE

OCEAN

SQUID

SHIP

PLASTIC

TRASH

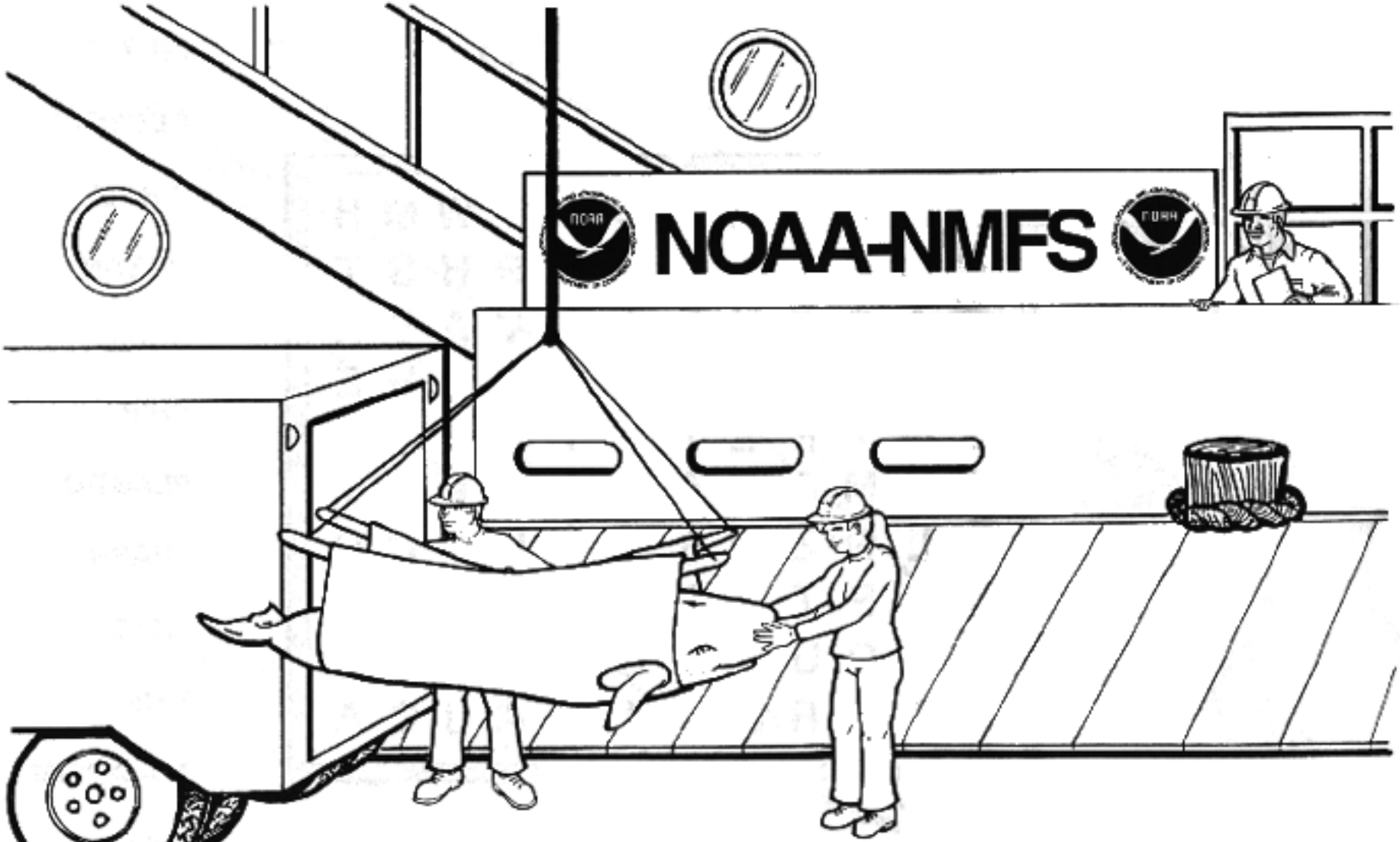
LITTER

SICK

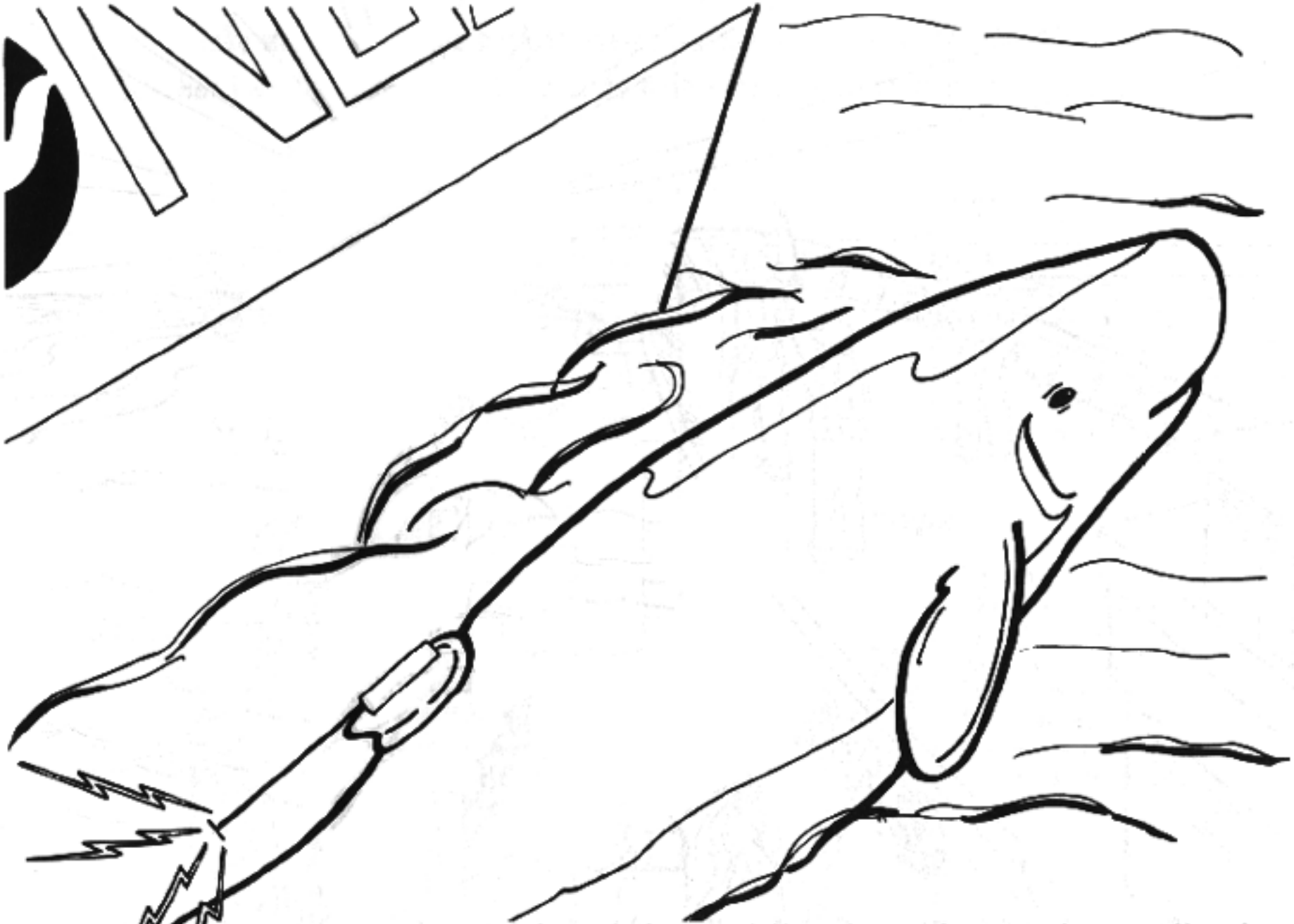
AQUARIUM

SWIM

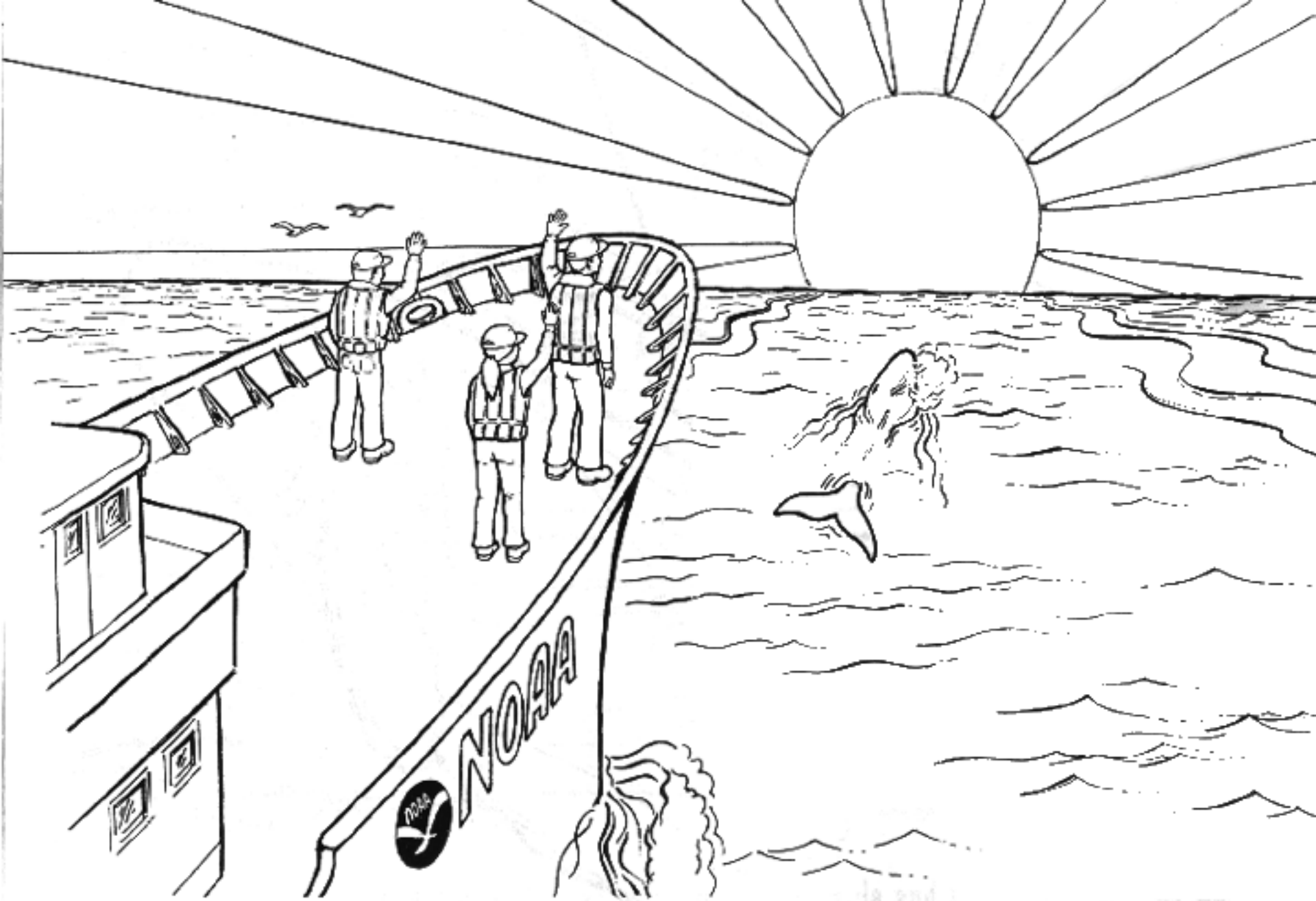
Streams, lakes and rivers flow into the ocean. Litter left near or in any of these areas can end up harming wildlife like Inky many miles away.




Now that Inky was well, she was flown to Florida and put on a ship that would release her in the ocean.

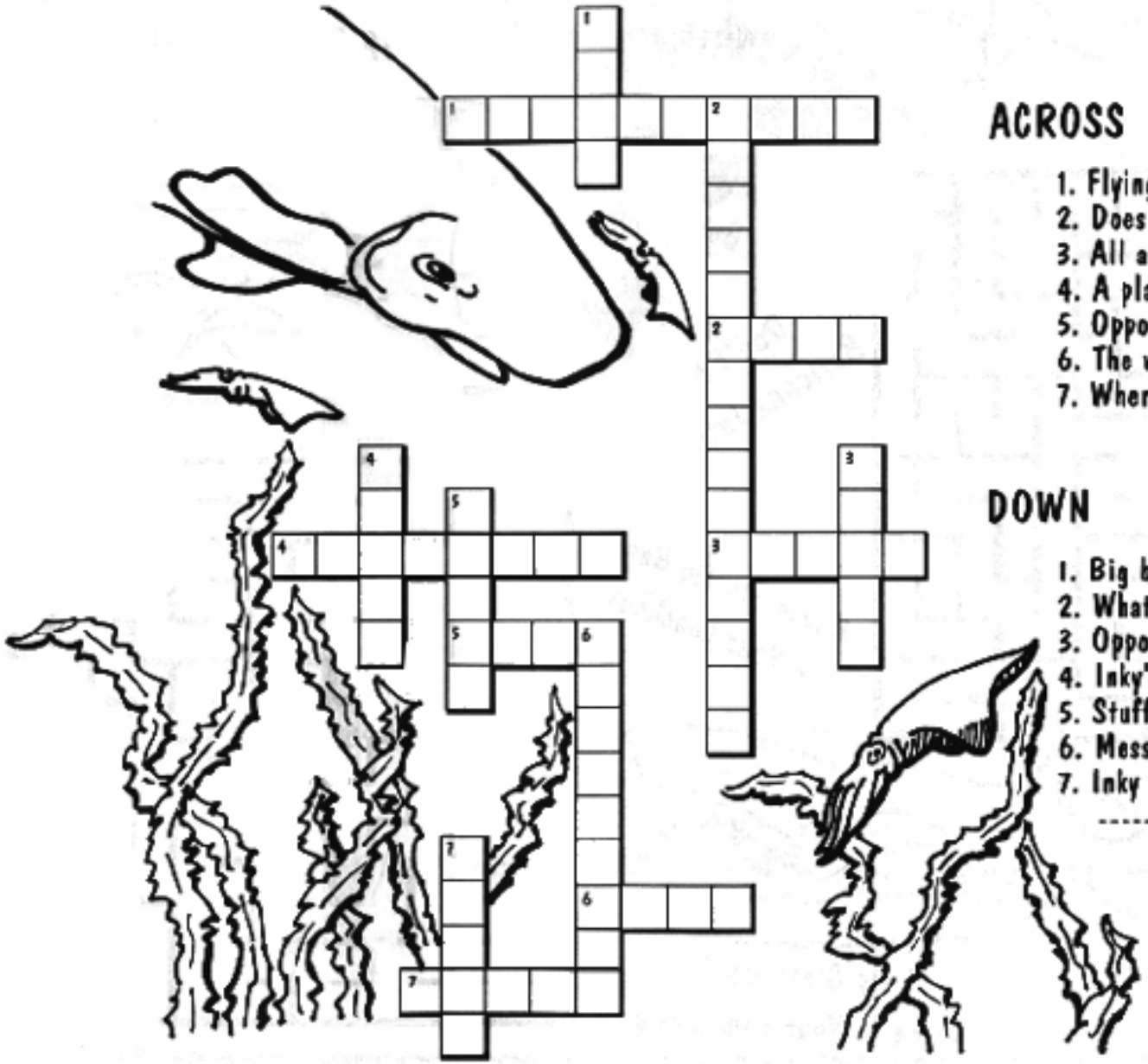


A monitor was put on Inky and she was followed to make sure she was all right.
After a few days the monitor dropped off.




She was just fine. It was time for all her friends on the ship to say goodbye to Inky. They hoped that Inky would not get sick again, because of trash still in the water.

Inky was happy to be back in the ocean again. She was soon diving deep for her favorite food. It is up to us to help protect Inky from getting sick again.



## ACROSS

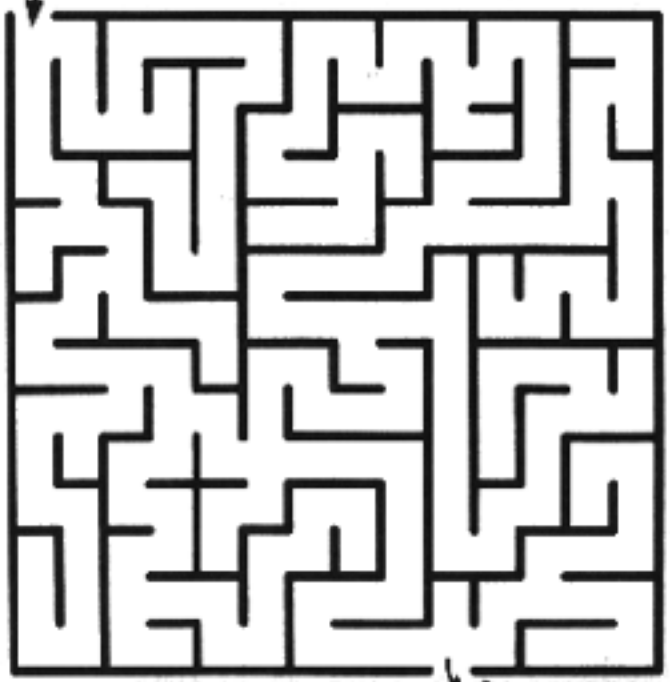
1. Flying machine
2. Does not feel good
3. All animals need -----
4. A place to see fish
5. Opposite of go
6. The whale's name
7. Where do whale's live?

## DOWN

1. Big boat
2. What kind of whale is Inky?
3. Opposite of dirty
4. Inky's favorite food
5. Stuff we throw away
6. Messes up the earth
7. Inky rode in a ----- to the aquarium

Answers Across 1. HELICOPTER 2. SICK 3. WATER 4. AQUARIUM 5. STOP 6. INKY 7. OCEAN Down 1. SHIP 2. PYGMY SPERM WHALE 3. CLEAN 4. SQUID 5. TRASH 6. POLLUTION 7. TRUCK

Help Inky find her way back to the ocean and learn what you can do to help protect Inky.



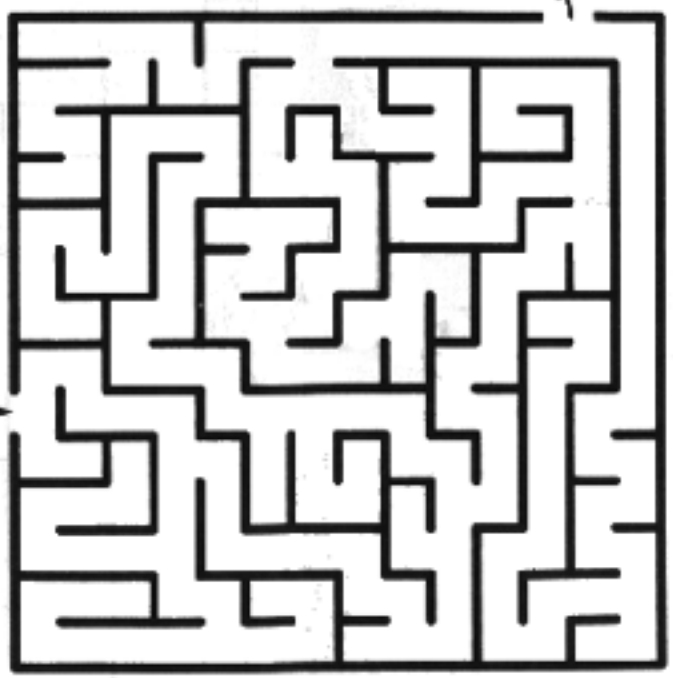
Recycle Plastic Bottles

Don't Release Balloons Into The Air

Reuse Plastic Bags In Your Lunchbox

Put All Trash In Trash Cans

Help Clean Up A Beach In Your Community



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# PLEDGE CERTIFICATE

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*pledges to help protect our lakes, rivers, streams and oceans from pollution*

*The U. S. Coast Guard Sea Partners Campaign*