

# THE POSEIDON PATROL

meets  
**The Reef Riders**

By Marc Nadel with Maren Gagne

TWO SUPER  
TEAMS MUST  
STOP-- PLASTIC  
PERIL AT THE  
CORAL REEF!



14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
**GOALS**

# THE POSEIDON PATROL

*By Marc Nadel with Maren Gagne*

**Writer and Illustrator: Marc Nadel**

**Color Artist: Maren Gagne**

**Producer and Plastic Pollution Expert: Alexis McGivern**

**Producer and Marine and coral reefs conservation Experts:**

**Carole Martinez and Lea Dubois**

**Letterer: Marco Rodriguez**

**Executive Producer**

Sean Southey

**Story Advisors:**

Dianna Cohen, Plastic Pollution Coalition; Francis Staub, Biodiversité Conseil,  
Antoinette Vermilye and John Vermilye, Gallifrey Foundation; Jocelyn Iverson,  
Comics Uniting Nations

## **COMICS UNITING NATIONS**

Natabara Rollosen

Shannon O'Shea

Callie King-Guffey

Graciela Leal

Jocelyn Iverson

Marco Rodriguez

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[www.outre-mer.gouv.fr](http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr)



[www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar](http://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar)



HEY KIDS! YOUR BIG BUDDIES ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER DEEP DIVE INTO ADVENTURE,  
SO SCOOT INTO YOUR SCUBA GEAR AND FASTEN YOUR FINS!  
PLUNGE INTO ACTION WITH:

# THE POSEIDON PATROL

## POSEIDON PATROL!



**BONKO BOWHEAD**  
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP  
OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

## REEF RIDERS!



**JET SHARK  
SUPER  
SPEEDSTER!**



**GO-GON DUGONG  
UNDERWATER  
TELEPORTER!**



**GREAT GRETA  
GROUPE  
POWERHOUSE!**



**ARAMIS NARWHAL  
SWORDSMAN  
SUPREME!**



**HUDSON  
HAWKSBILL  
NAVIGATOR!**



**JO\*SEA OTTER**  
MIND READER AND  
GROUP LEADER!



**KRACKERS  
PARROTFISH  
CHEWING CHAMP!**



**WORDSWORTH WALRUS  
BEWHISKERED BUT  
BEWILDERED WIZARD!**

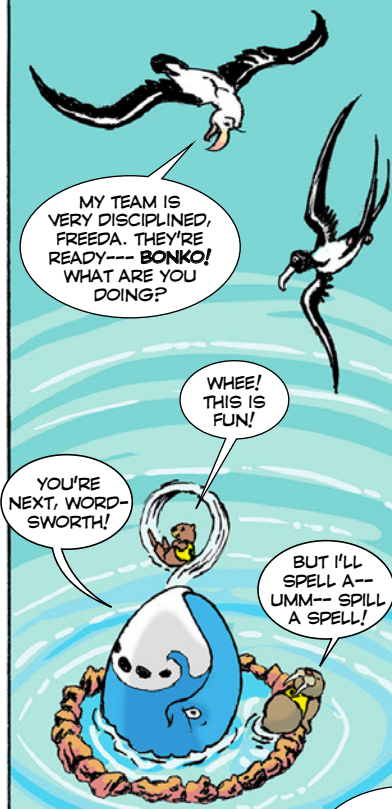


**OCARINA  
OCTOPUS  
SHAPE SHIFTER!**

**OUR HEROES TEAM UP TO FACE A VERY REAL THREAT TO CORAL COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE: PLASTIC SMOG!**

***CORALS ARE CREATIVE CREATURES! THEIR BEAUTIFUL REEFS BECOME HOMES FOR OTHER SEA BEINGS, AND THEY'RE NEEDED BY US, AND BY OUR WHOLE PLANET! CORAL REEFS PROTECT OUR COASTS FROM DANGEROUS STORMS AND FLOODING. THEY ARE VALUABLE FISH NURSERIES, AND THEIR SEAGRASSES IMPROVE WATER QUALITY!***

HIGH ABOVE THE POSEIDON PATROL'S TOP SECRET HEADQUARTERS, TWO FEATHERED FRIENDS APPROACH...

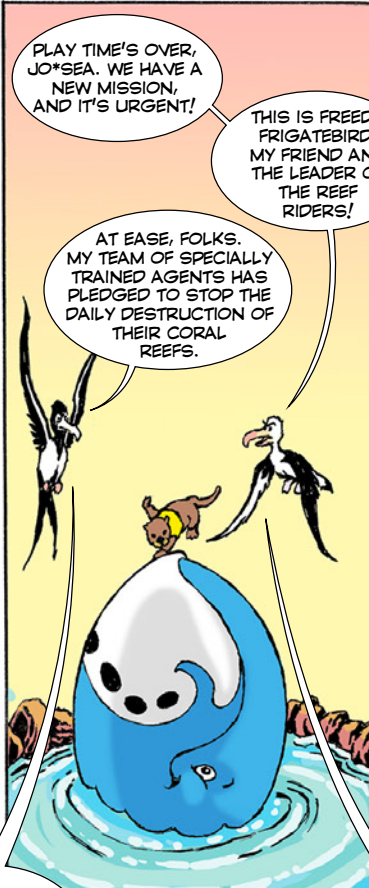


MY TEAM IS VERY DISCIPLINED, FREEDA. THEY'RE READY--- BONKO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHEE! THIS IS FUN!

YOU'RE NEXT, WORDSWORTH!

BUT I'LL SPELL A-- UMM-- SPILL A SPELL!



PLAY TIME'S OVER, JO\*SEA. WE HAVE A NEW MISSION, AND IT'S URGENT!

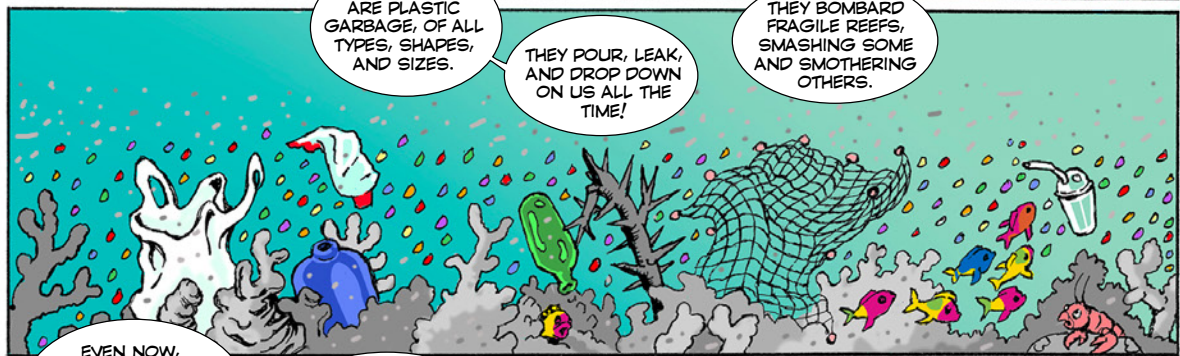
THIS IS FREEDA FRIGATEBIRD, MY FRIEND AND THE LEADER OF THE REEF RIDERS!

AT EASE, FOLKS. MY TEAM OF SPECIALLY TRAINED AGENTS HAS PLEDGED TO STOP THE DAILY DESTRUCTION OF THEIR CORAL REEFS.



IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT AROUND THE WORLD, THEY ARE UNDER ATTACK!

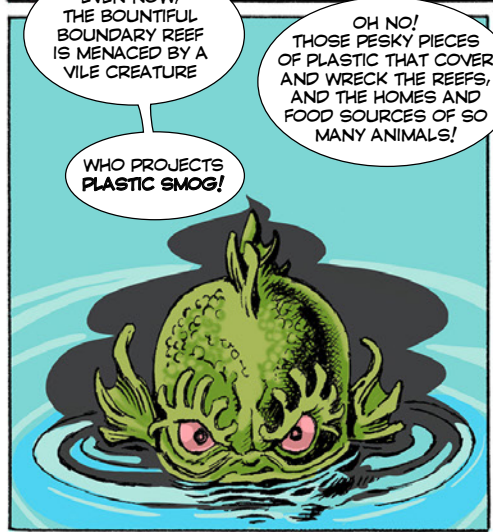
UNDER ATTACK? HOW ARE THEY HURTING THEM? AND WHY DO SUCH AN AWFUL THING?



THE WEAPONS ARE PLASTIC GARBAGE, OF ALL TYPES, SHAPES, AND SIZES.

THEY POUR, LEAK, AND DROP DOWN ON US ALL THE TIME!

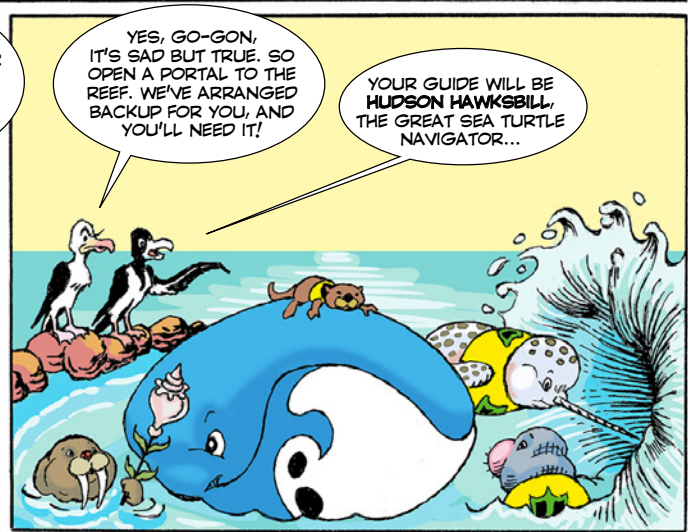
THEY BOMBARD FRAGILE REEFS, SMASHING SOME AND SMOTHERING OTHERS.



EVEN NOW, THE BOUNTIFUL BOUNDARY REEF IS MENACED BY A VILE CREATURE

WHO PROJECTS PLASTIC SMOG!

OH NO! THOSE PESKY PIECES OF PLASTIC THAT COVER AND WRECK THE REEFS, AND THE HOMES AND FOOD SOURCES OF SO MANY ANIMALS!



YES, GO-GON. IT'S SAD BUT TRUE. SO OPEN A PORTAL TO THE REEF. WE'VE ARRANGED BACKUP FOR YOU, AND YOU'LL NEED IT!

YOUR GUIDE WILL BE HUDSON HAWKSBILL, THE GREAT SEA TURTLE NAVIGATOR...

... AND REMEMBER, YOU MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE THE REEF FROM UTTER DESTRUCTION.

YES! IT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ECO-SYSTEMS ON EARTH!

IT IS...  
MAGNIFIQUE!

IT'S PRO  
CITY-UMM-SO  
PRETTY!

FOLLOW ME,  
FOLKS!

IS THAT AN OLD  
FISHING NET COVERING  
THOSE CORALS? WHERE  
WOULD PLASTIDIUS  
GET THAT TO USE AS A  
WEAPON?

THAT'S NOT EVEN  
HIS! PEOPLE DUMP  
THINGS OVERBOARD  
FROM THEIR BOATS  
ALL THE TIME.

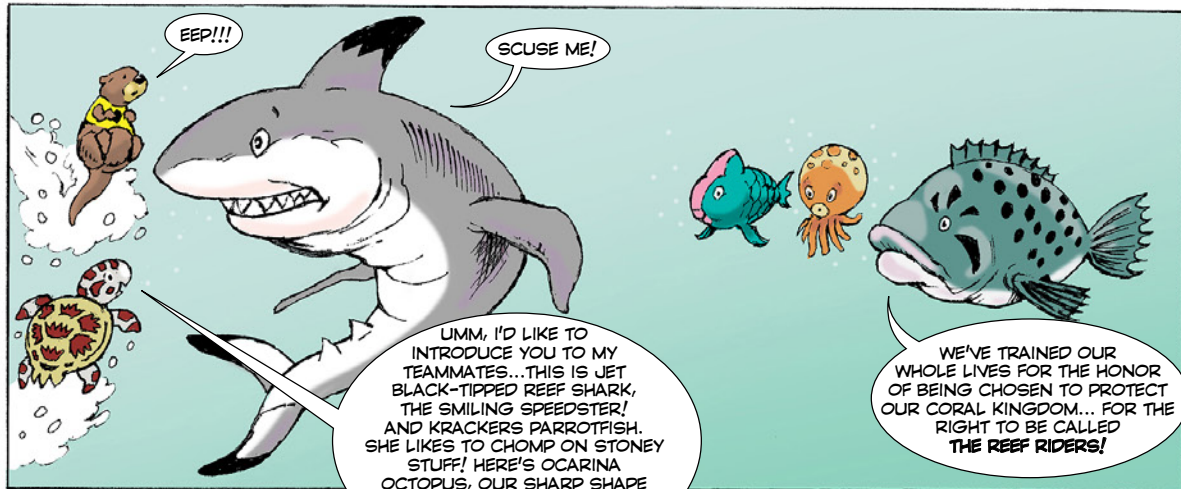
THOSE  
TOWERS OF  
CORAL ARE  
BROKEN TO  
BITS!

WHEN TONS  
OF UNTREATED  
TRASH ARE DROPPED  
FROM GARBAGE  
BARGES, THAT'S  
THE RESULT.

OVER HERE,  
PLASTIC JUNK  
HAS TOTALLY  
COVERED THE  
REEF...

THE ONLY  
COLORS LEFT ARE  
THOSE PLASTIC STRAWS,  
AND THAT'S THE LAST  
STRAW! IT'S WHY WE'VE  
BANDIED TOGETHER TO  
END THIS MENACE.

NOTHING  
COULD BE  
SCARIER---



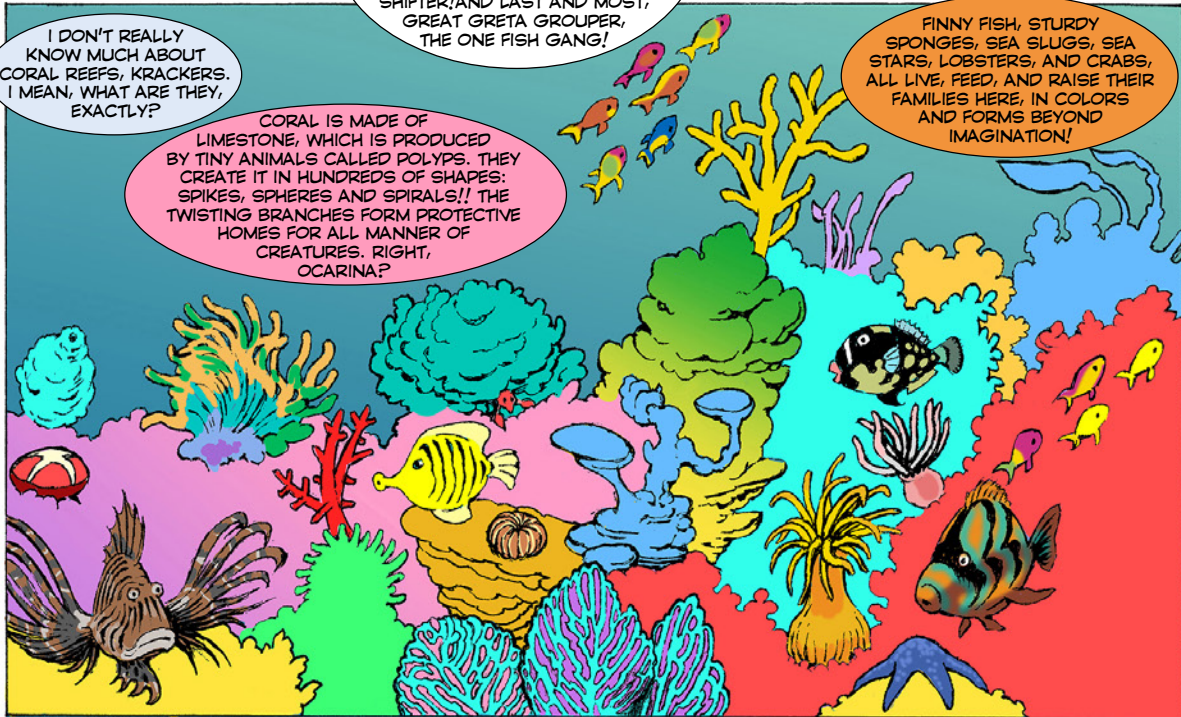
UMM, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY TEAMMATES...THIS IS JET BLACK-TIPPED REEF SHARK, THE SMILING SPEEDSTER! AND KRACKERS PARROTFISH. SHE LIKES TO CHOMP ON STONEY STUFF! HERE'S OCARINA OCTOPUS, OUR SHARP SHAPE SHIFTER!AND LAST AND MOST, GREAT GRETA GROUPEY, THE ONE FISH GANG!

WE'VE TRAINED OUR WHOLE LIVES FOR THE HONOR OF BEING CHOSEN TO PROTECT OUR CORAL KINGDOM... FOR THE RIGHT TO BE CALLED THE REEF RIDERS!

I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT CORAL REEFS, KRACKERS. I MEAN, WHAT ARE THEY, EXACTLY?

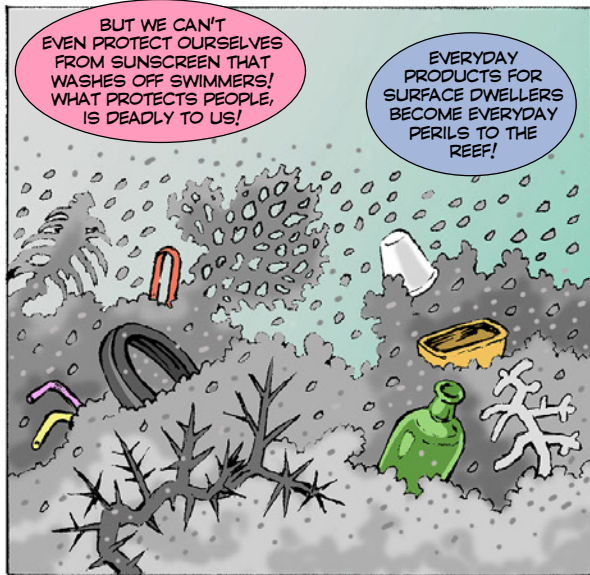
CORAL IS MADE OF LIMESTONE, WHICH IS PRODUCED BY TINY ANIMALS CALLED POLYPS. THEY CREATE IT IN HUNDREDS OF SHAPES: SPIKES, SPHERES AND SPIRALS!! THE TWISTING BRANCHES FORM PROTECTIVE HOMES FOR ALL MANNER OF CREATURES. RIGHT, OCARINA?

FINNY FISH, STURDY SPONGES, SEA SLUGS, SEA STARS, LOBSTERS, AND CRABS, ALL LIVE, FEED, AND RAISE THEIR FAMILIES HERE, IN COLORS AND FORMS BEYOND IMAGINATION!



BUT WE CAN'T EVEN PROTECT OURSELVES FROM SUNSCREEN THAT WASHES OFF SWIMMERS! WHAT PROTECTS PEOPLE, IS DEADLY TO US!

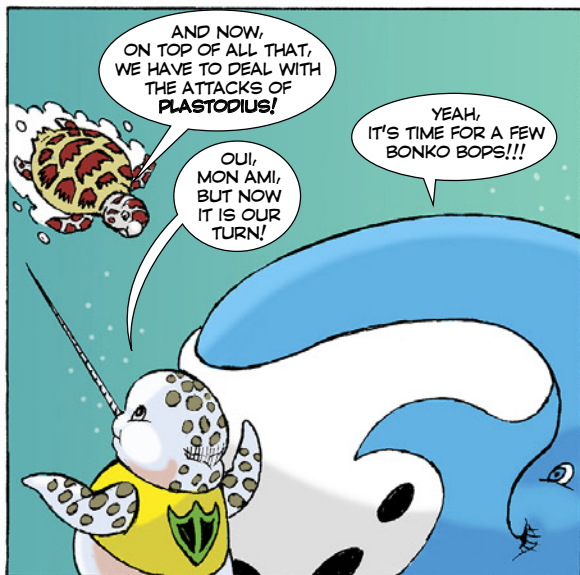
EVERYDAY PRODUCTS FOR SURFACE DWELLERS BECOME EVERYDAY PERILS TO THE REEF!

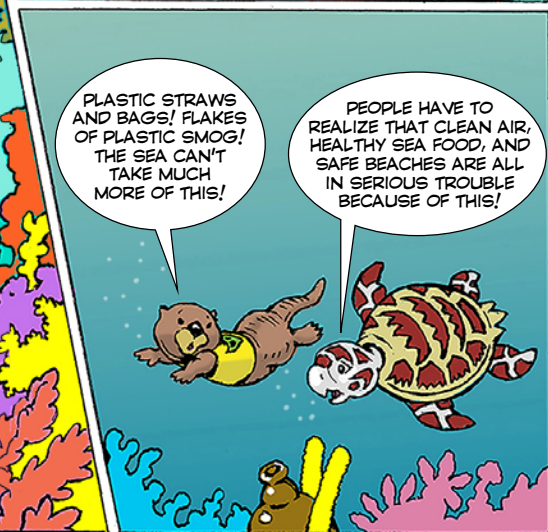
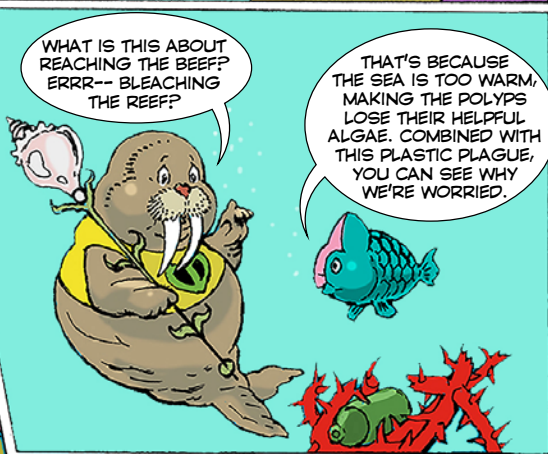
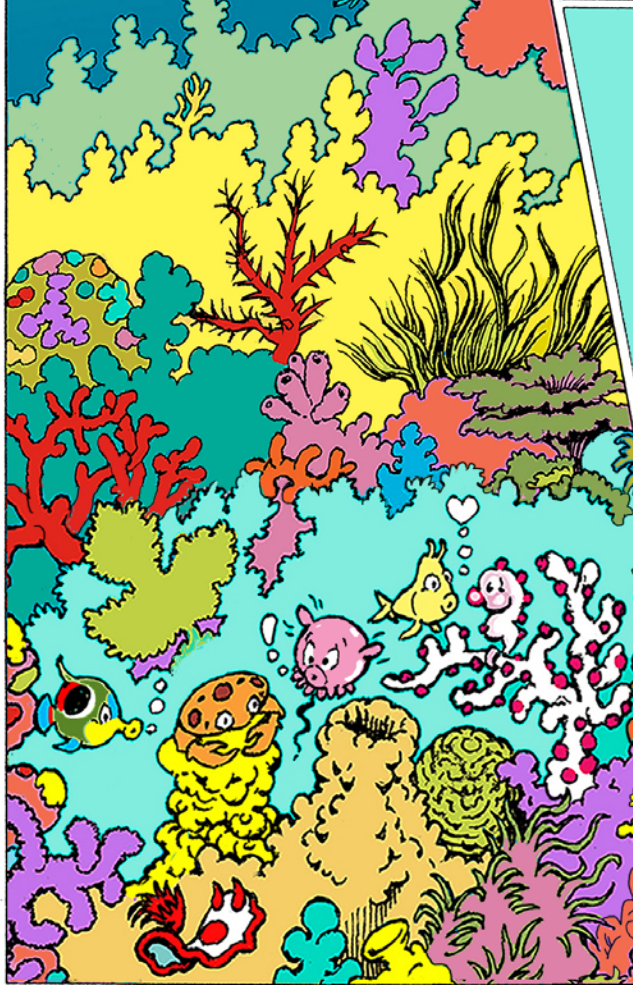
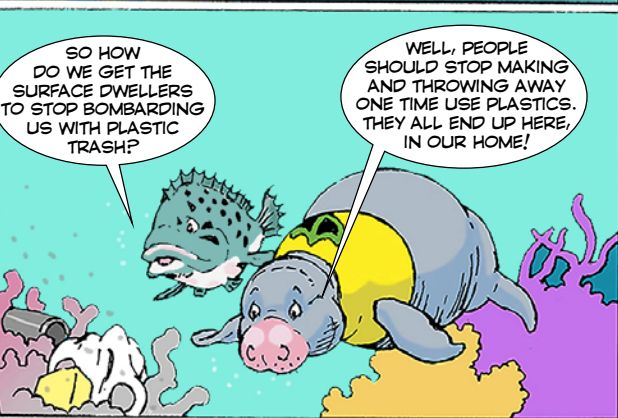
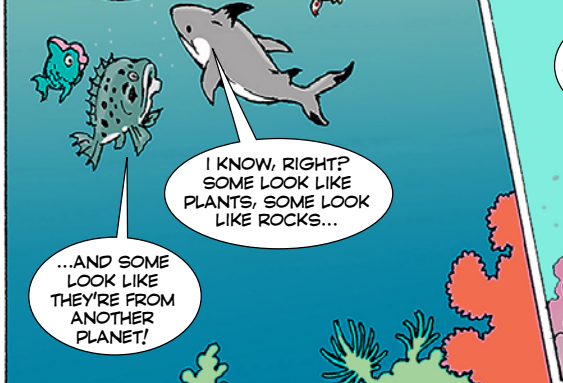
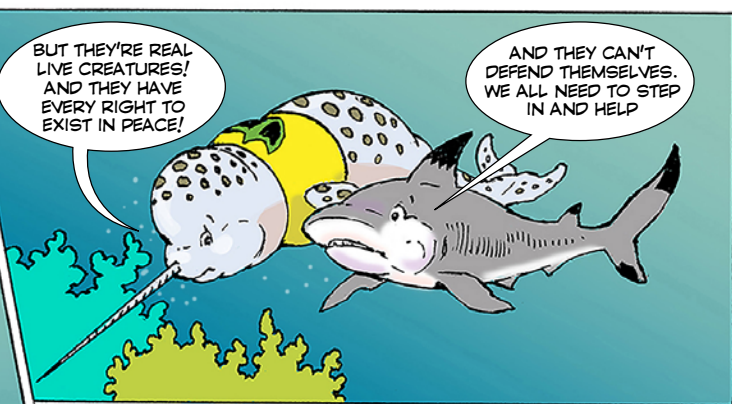
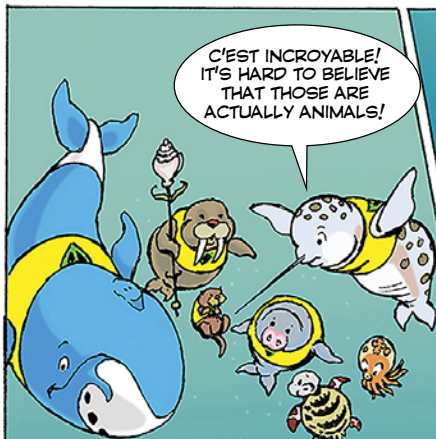


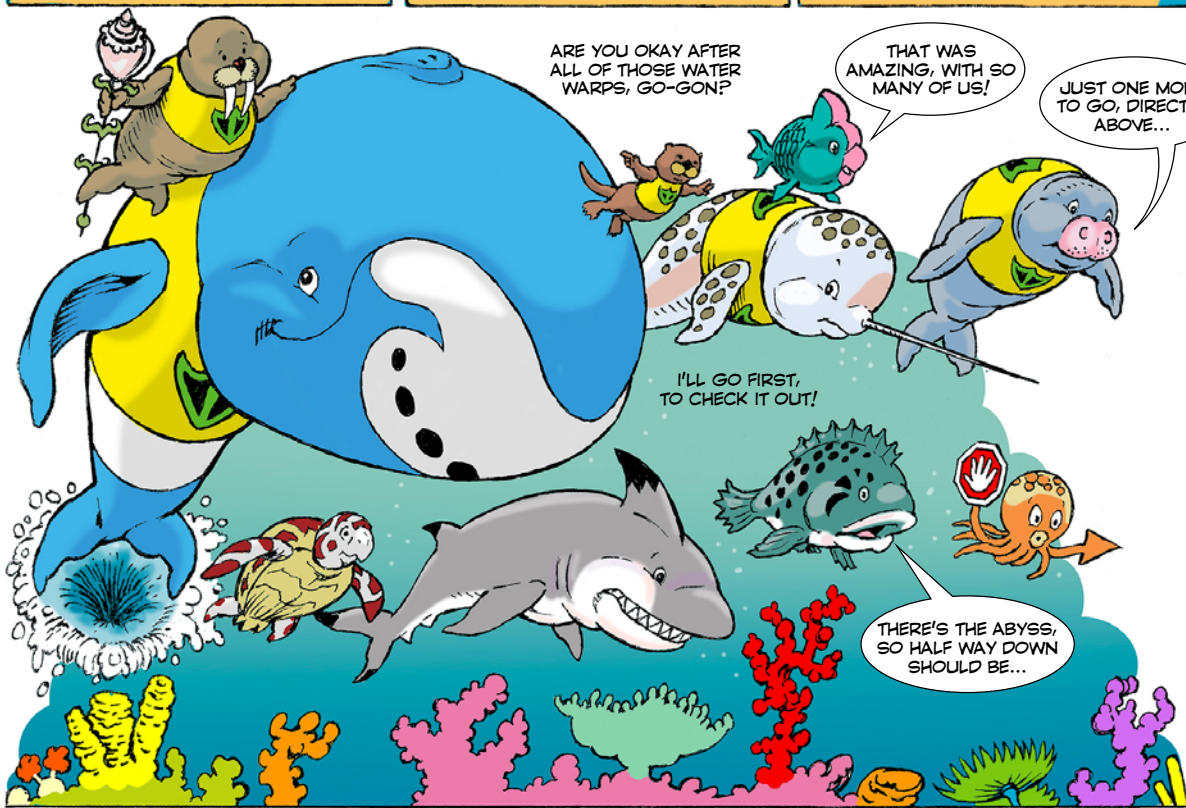
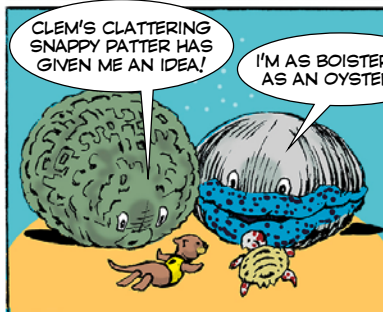
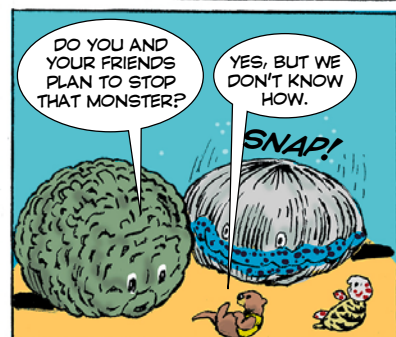
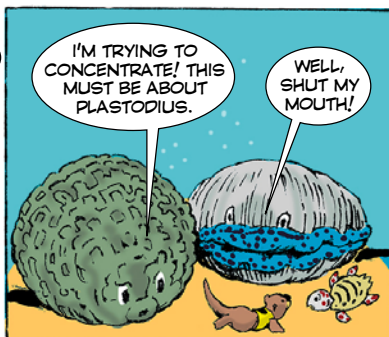
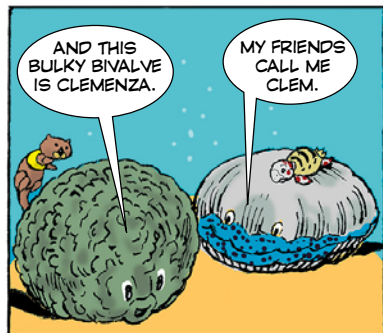
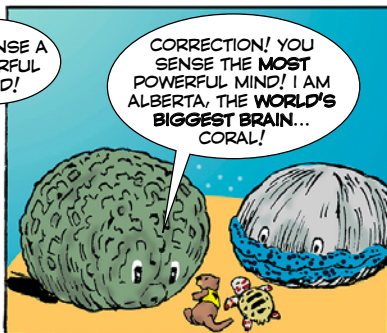
AND NOW, ON TOP OF ALL THAT, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ATTACKS OF PLASTIDIUS!

OUI, MON AMI, BUT NOW IT IS OUR TURN!

YEAH, IT'S TIME FOR A FEW BONKO BOPS!!!



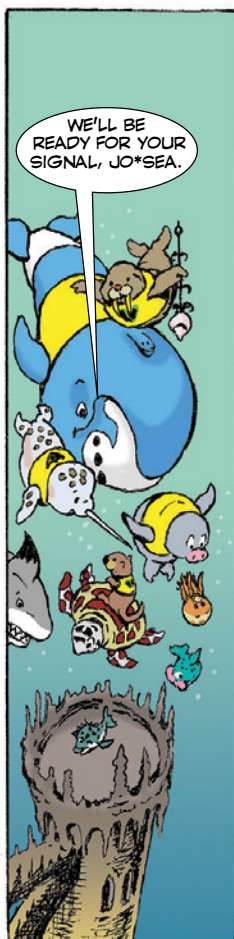




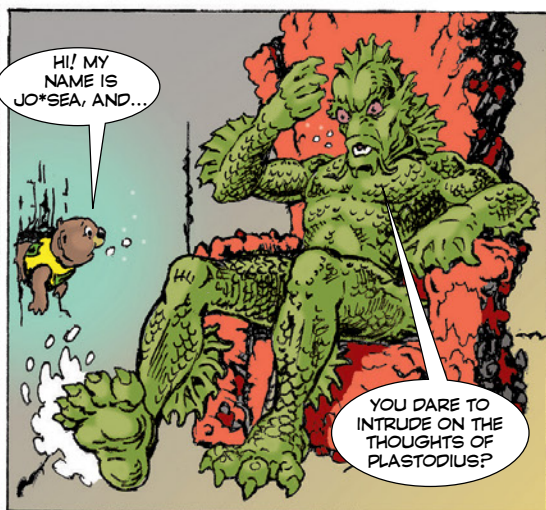


THE SUNKEN  
REMAINS OF CASTLE  
PLASTODIUS!

IT'S OKAY  
EVERYBODY,  
COME THROUGH!

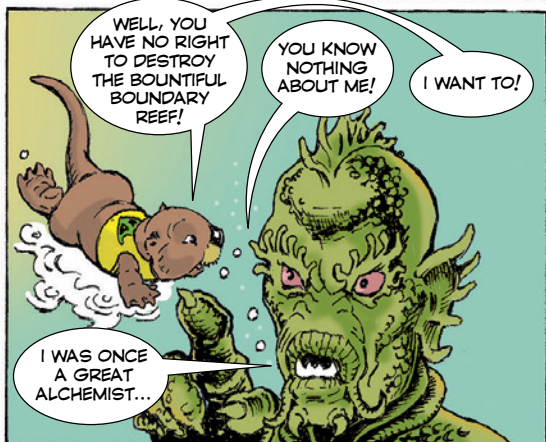


WE'LL BE  
READY FOR YOUR  
SIGNAL, JO\*SEA.



HI! MY  
NAME IS  
JO\*SEA, AND...

YOU DARE TO  
INTRUDE ON THE  
THOUGHTS OF  
PLASTODIUS?



WELL, YOU  
HAVE NO RIGHT  
TO DESTROY  
THE BOUNTIFUL  
BOUNDARY  
REEF!

YOU KNOW  
NOTHING  
ABOUT ME!

I WANT TO!

I WAS ONCE  
A GREAT  
ALCHEMIST...

I FOUND THE ELIXIR THAT  
COULD CHANGE ANYTHING  
INTO GOLD!



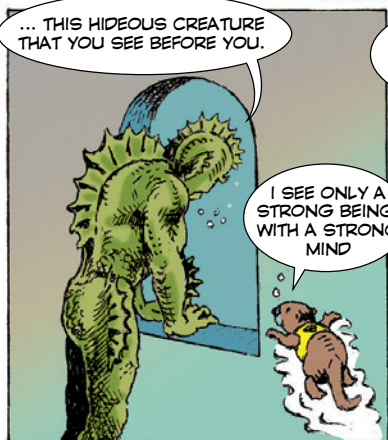
A LIGHTNING BOLT STARTLED  
ME. I WAS DRENCHED IN MY  
POTION.



THE NEXT BOLT  
SENT MY CASTLE  
TUMBLING INTO  
THE SEA BELOW.



IN ORDER  
TO SURVIVE  
UNDERWATER,  
THE ELIXIR  
TURNED ME  
INTO THIS..



... THIS HIDEOUS  
CREATURE  
THAT YOU SEE  
BEFORE YOU.

I SEE ONLY A  
STRONG BEING,  
WITH A STRONG  
MIND



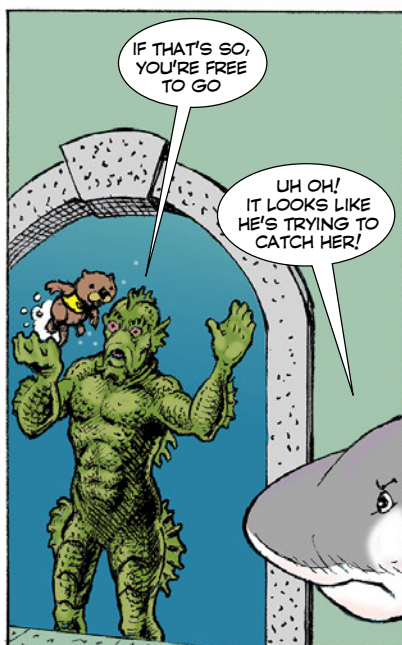
THE SEA BESTOWS  
BEAUTY ON CORAL  
REEFS, BUT IT HAS  
NONE FOR ME?!?

WHAT?  
NO!!!

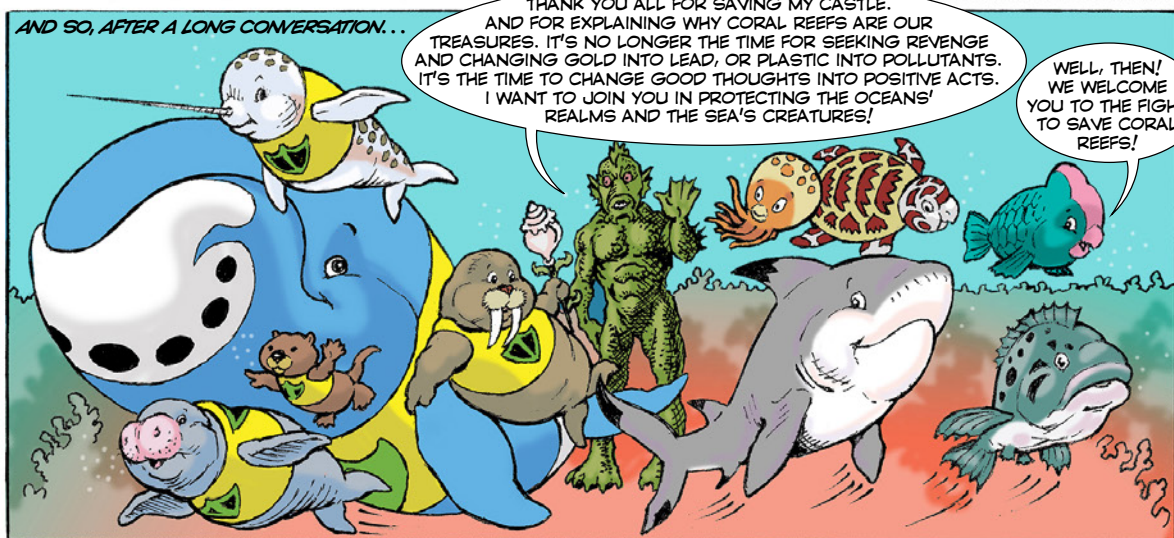
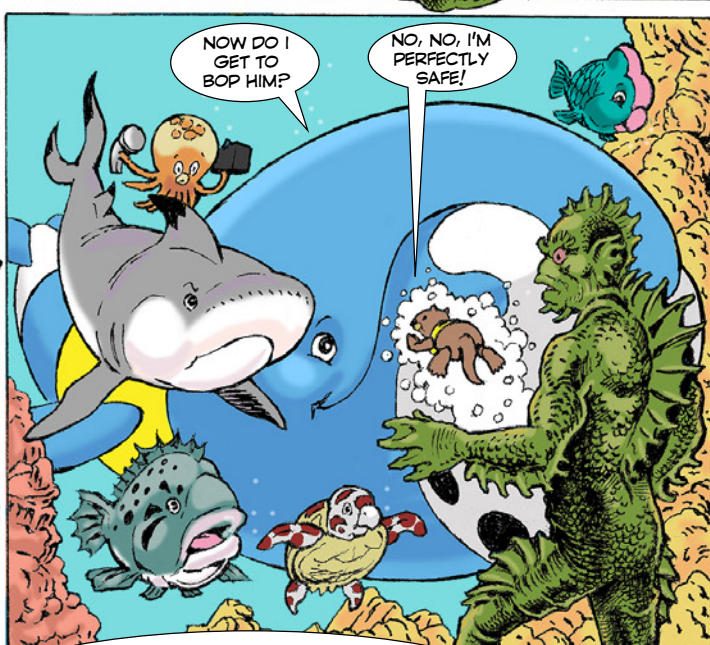


LIAR! YOU PRETEND  
TO CARE WHILE YOUR  
FRIENDS GATHER  
OUTSIDE TO ATTACK  
ME?

NO! THAT'S  
NOT---



K  
R  
R  
U  
N  
C  
H  
!





LET'S REVIEW  
THOSE DANGERS, GANG!  
PLASTIC POLLUTION MAKES  
CORAL REEFS MORE OPEN  
TO DISEASES.

SHARP PLASTIC  
SHARDS CUT THEM,  
CAUSING DANGEROUS  
WOUNDS THAT MAY GET  
INFECTED.

WHEN BROKEN UP,  
PLASTIC HARMS CORAL  
GROWTH AND  
REPRODUCTION.

RIGHT! THEY'RE  
FISH NURSERIES, SO  
WHEN THE FOOD CHAIN  
IS SHATTERED, NO ONE  
CAN EAT PROPERLY.

AND THE  
SMOTHERING  
OF THE REEF HAS A  
TERRIBLE EFFECT ON  
THE CREATURES WHO  
LIVE THERE, TOO.

THIS MEANS  
THAT FISHERMEN  
WILL EVENTUALLY  
HAVE NOTHING TO  
CATCH.

OUI! REMEMBER  
THAT HEALTHY REEFS  
PROTECT BEACHES AND  
COASTAL COMMUNITIES  
FROM STORM  
DAMAGE.

OH! MY TURN?  
UMM...NO STORE  
MAWS-BOOF-NO MORE  
STRAWS!!!

NOW IT'S  
**YOUR TURN!**  
TEAM UP WITH  
YOUR FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS. REMIND  
THEM TO REFUSE  
PLASTIC WHEN  
THEY CAN, REDUCE  
OR REUSE IT WHEN  
THEY CANNOT,  
AND TO RECYCLE  
RESPONSIBLY!  
SAY NO TO  
PLASTIC!

AND THAT  
CAN BE JUST... THE  
BEGINNING!

**THE  
END!**

Hey, did you know that plastic is not the only thing affecting our precious reefs? Many sunscreens contain chemicals such as oxybenzone and octinoxate which are known to be deadly to coral polyps. So avoid sunscreens with these ingredients and get your family to start using coral-friendly sunscreen next time you go to the beach. Thanks for being a part of the Poseidon Patrol!

## QUESTIONS

Here is a challenge for you. Can you answer the following questions correctly?

### 1. What are coral reefs? Select the right answer

- ☐ Colourful rocks on the ocean floor
- ☐ Fossils from thousands of years ago
- ☐ Large networks of animals called polyps
- ☐ Large underwater trees and bushes

### 2. How does coral get damaged by plastic - fill in the blanks!

- ☐ Abandoned \_\_\_\_\_ catch on reefs and entangle fish and animals.
- ☐ Dumping \_\_\_\_\_ into the water breaks corals and makes them more likely to get sick.
- ☐ Plastic breaks up into tiny pieces to become a plastic \_\_\_\_\_ that release toxic chemicals and poisons the reef.

### 3. How can you protect our beautiful coral reefs? Which statements are true?

- ☐ Refuse plastic, reuse or reduce it and recycle responsibly
- ☐ Leave it to Poseidon Patrol to protect the reefs
- ☐ Don't leave plastic behind. Don't litter the beach or any waterways and seas (pick it up if you see it)
- ☐ The animals and fish will eat all the plastic, so we don't have to worry
- ☐ Use coral-friendly sunscreen (without oxybenzone or octinoxate ingredients)
- ☐ Alberta the Brain coral will find a solution
- ☐ Don't buy products with microbeads
- ☐ Don't buy dead corals from tourist shops

To check your answers go to [www.plasticfreecampus.org/poseidon](http://www.plasticfreecampus.org/poseidon)



[comicsunitingnations.org](http://comicsunitingnations.org)



[www.outre-mer.gouv.fr](http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr)