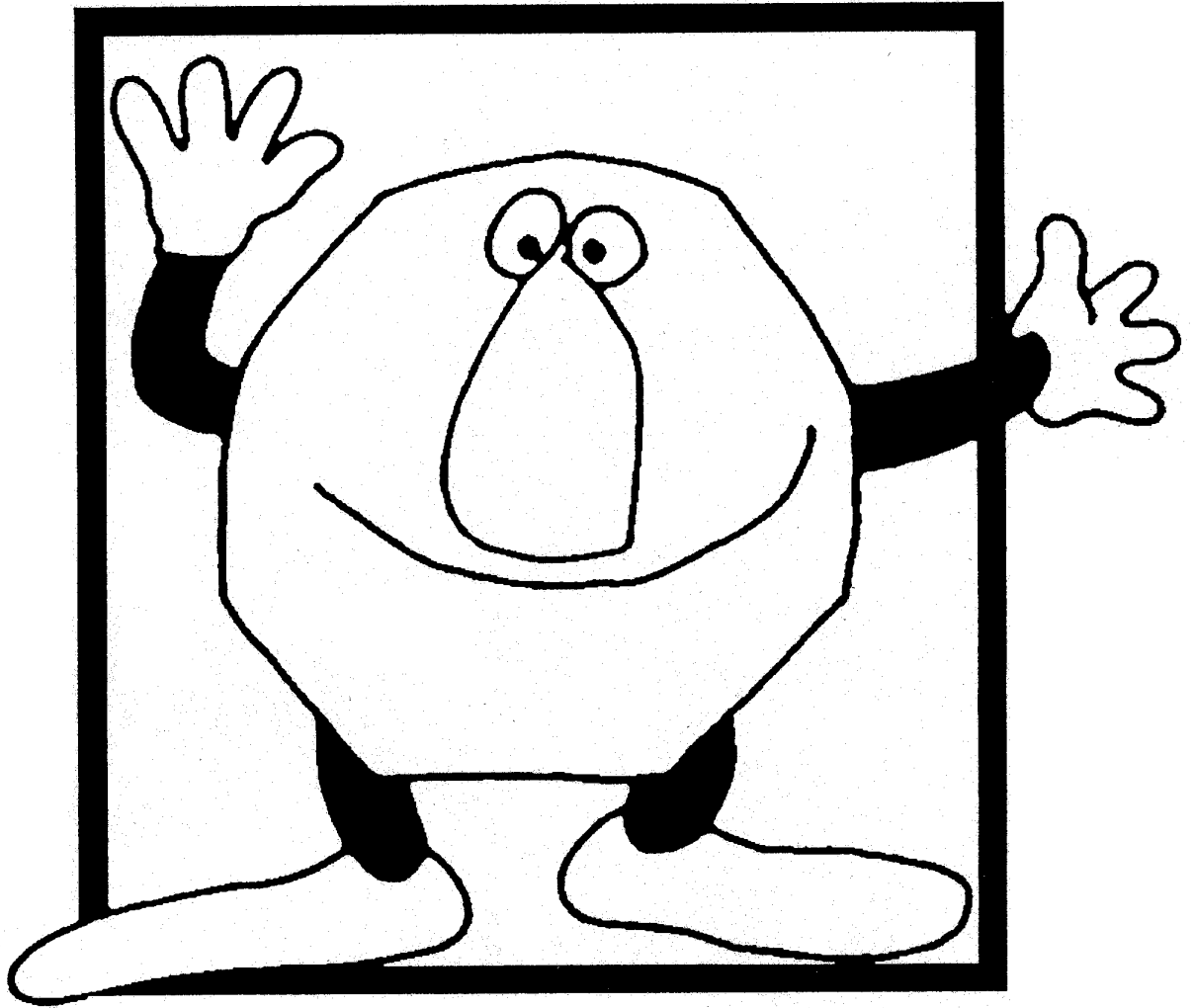
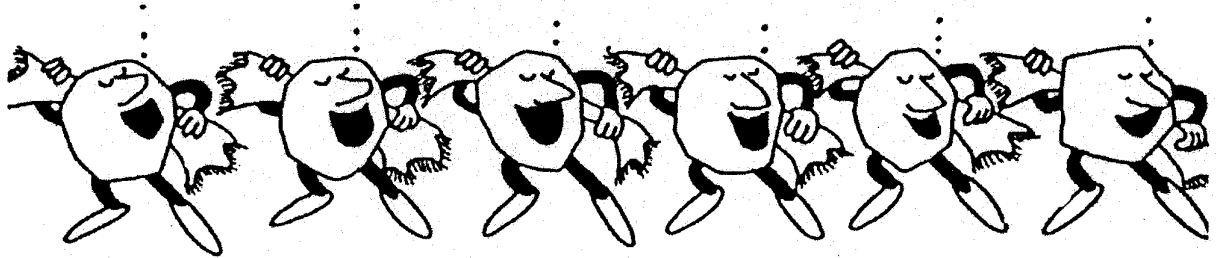


Mr. Sand



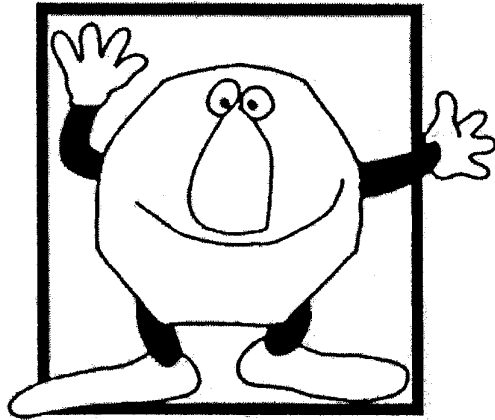
and his friends



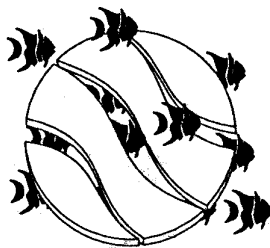
from Dauphin Island Sea Lab



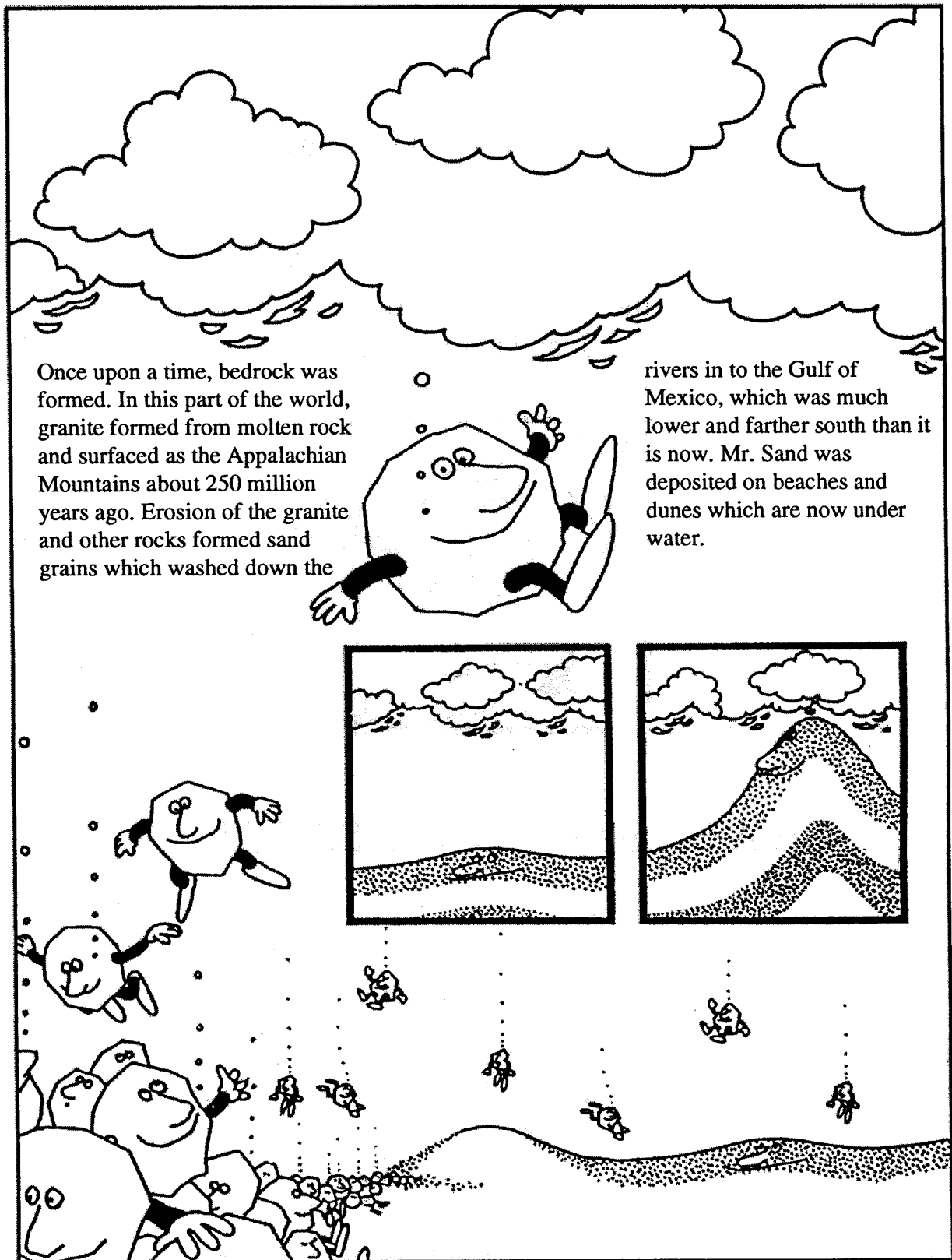
Come let Mr. Sand
guide you through
the life of a dune.
Learn how to protect
the sand dunes, Mr.
Sand, and his friends
who live with him.

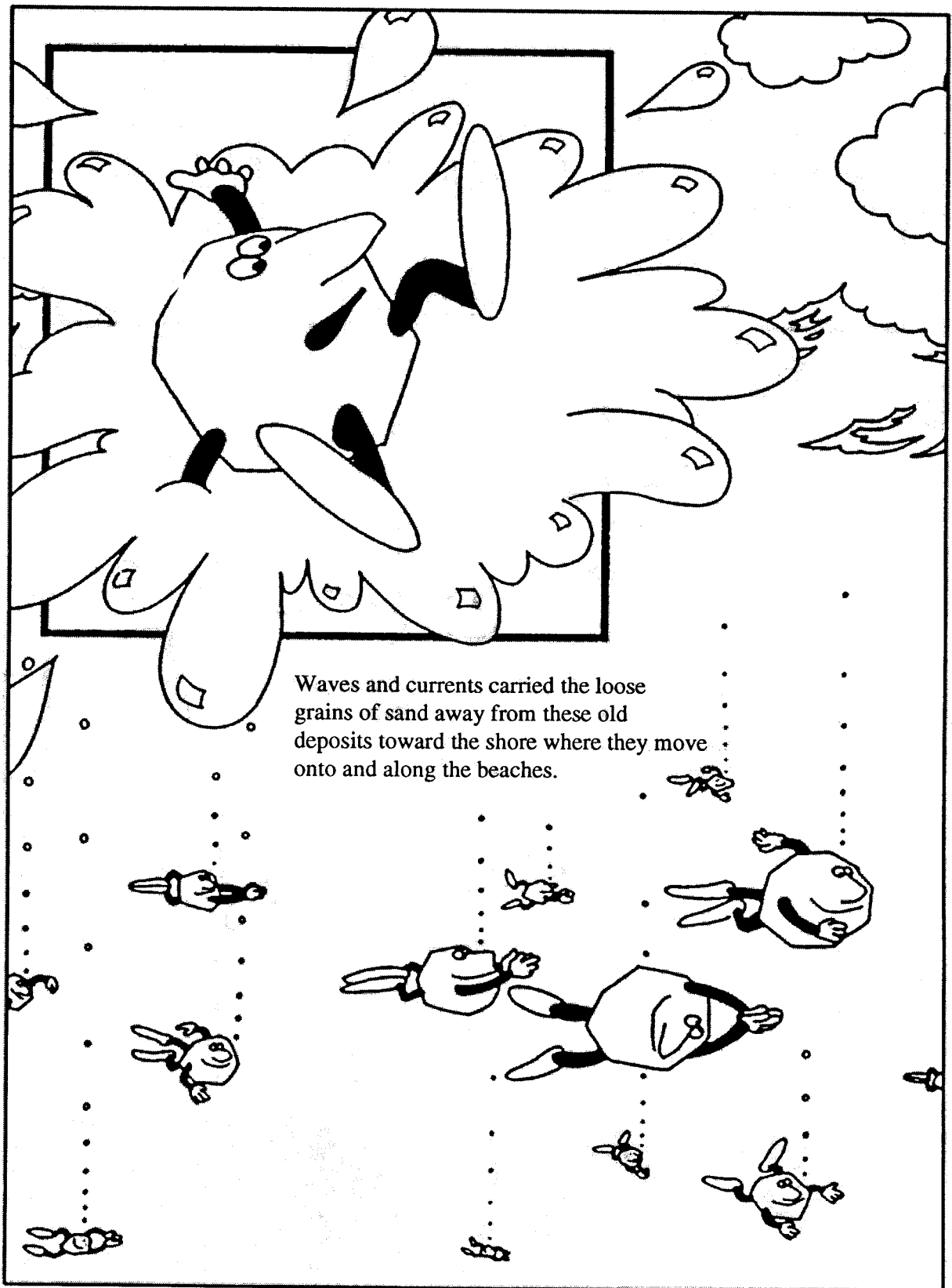


BE A FRIEND TO MR. SAND!



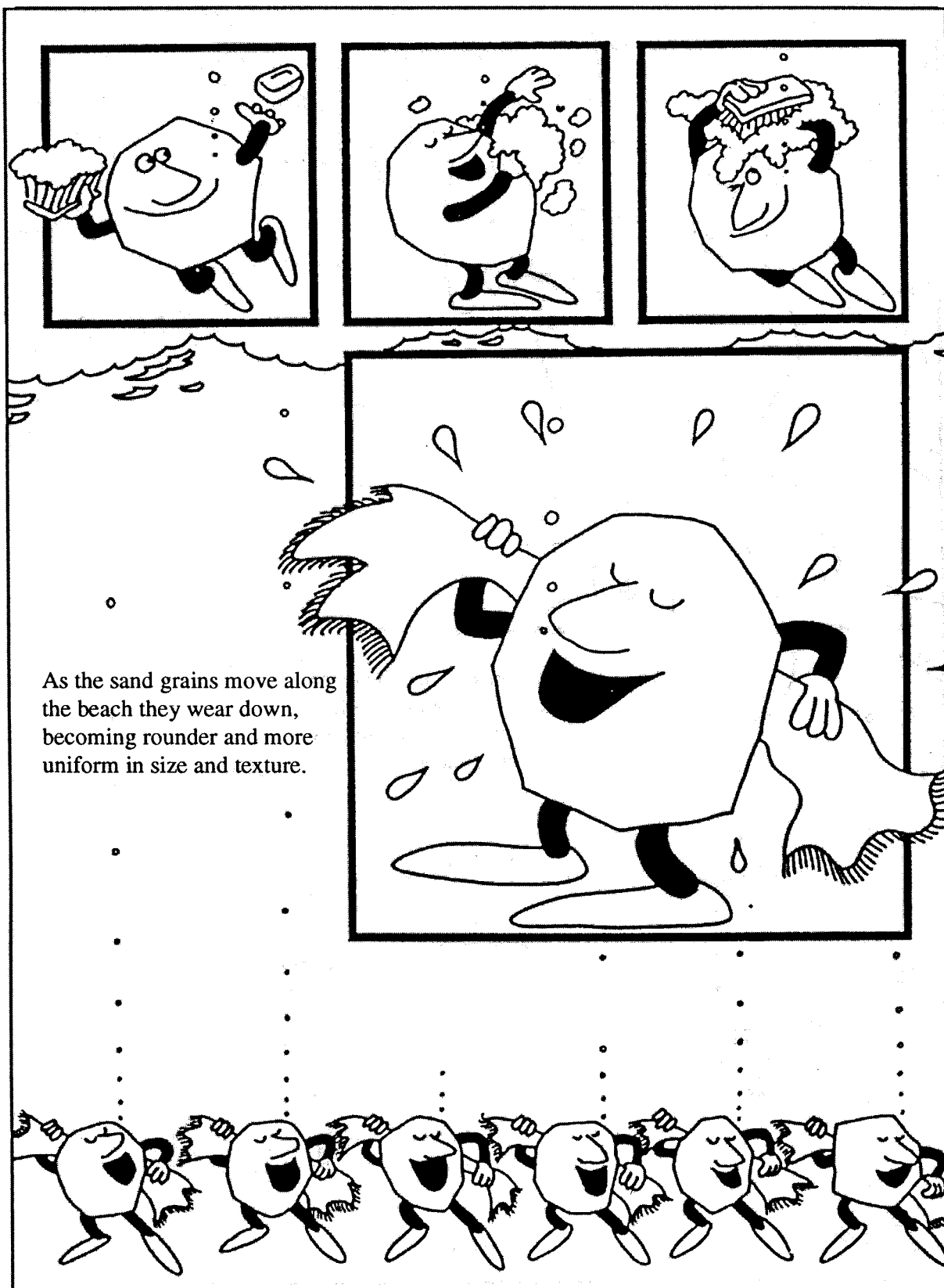
This story is adapted by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab from an outdoor exhibit found in Prince Edward Island National Park.





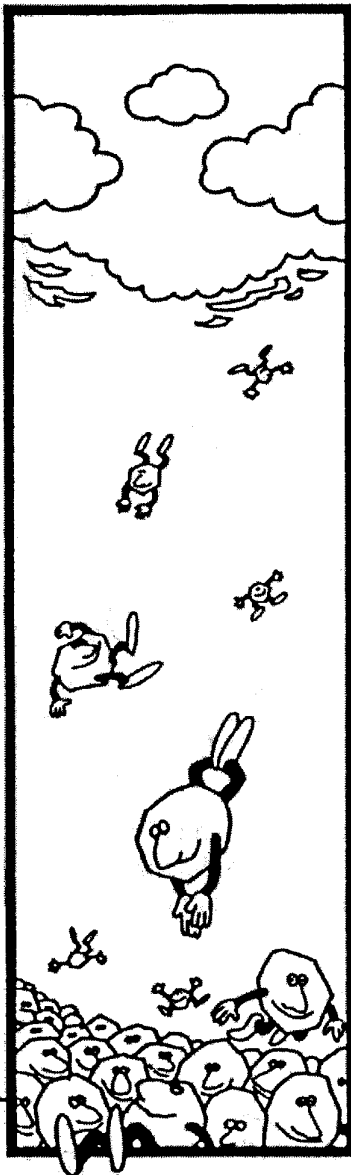
Waves and currents carried the loose grains of sand away from these old deposits toward the shore where they move onto and along the beaches.





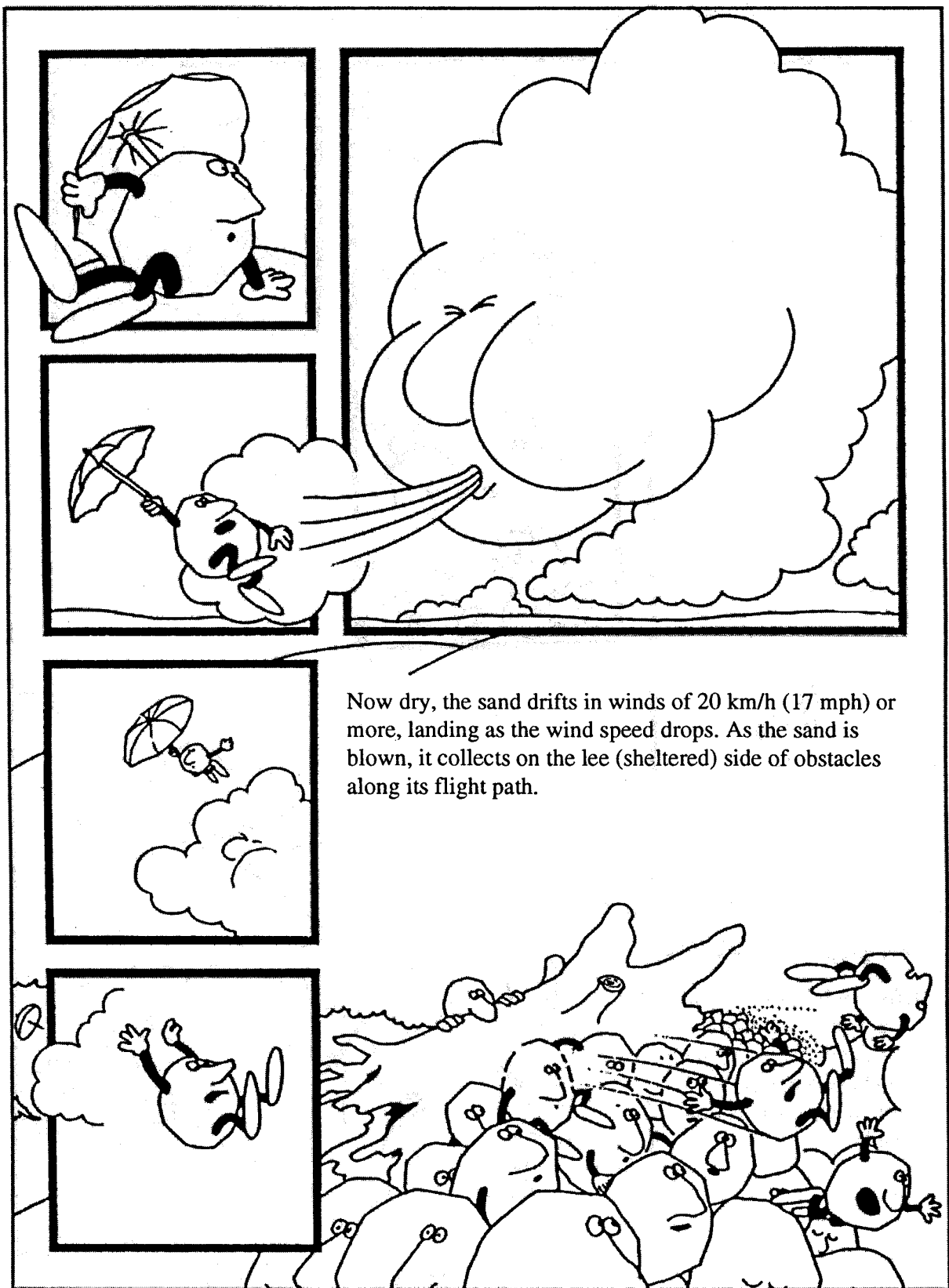
As the sand grains move along the beach they wear down, becoming rounder and more uniform in size and texture.

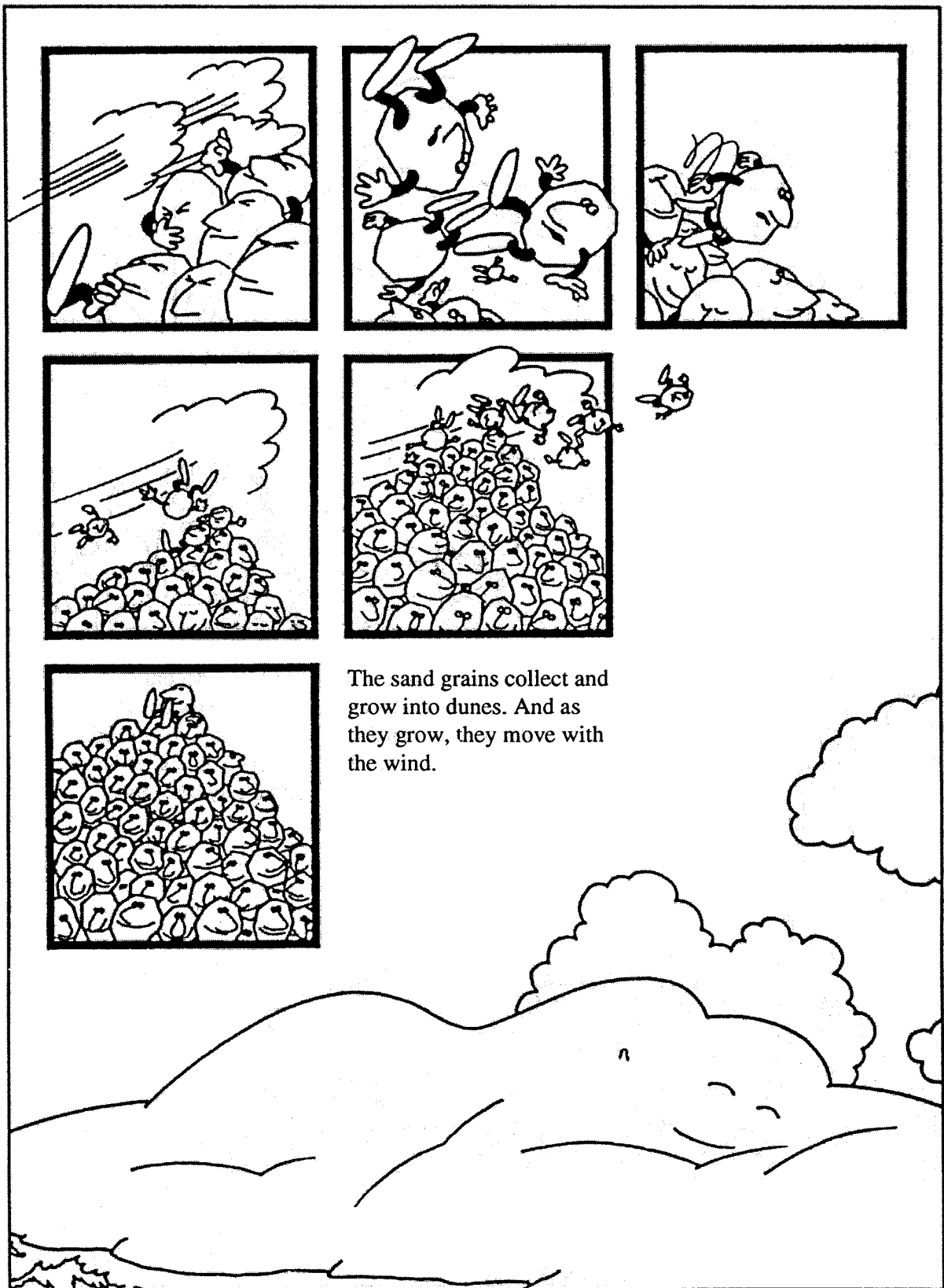


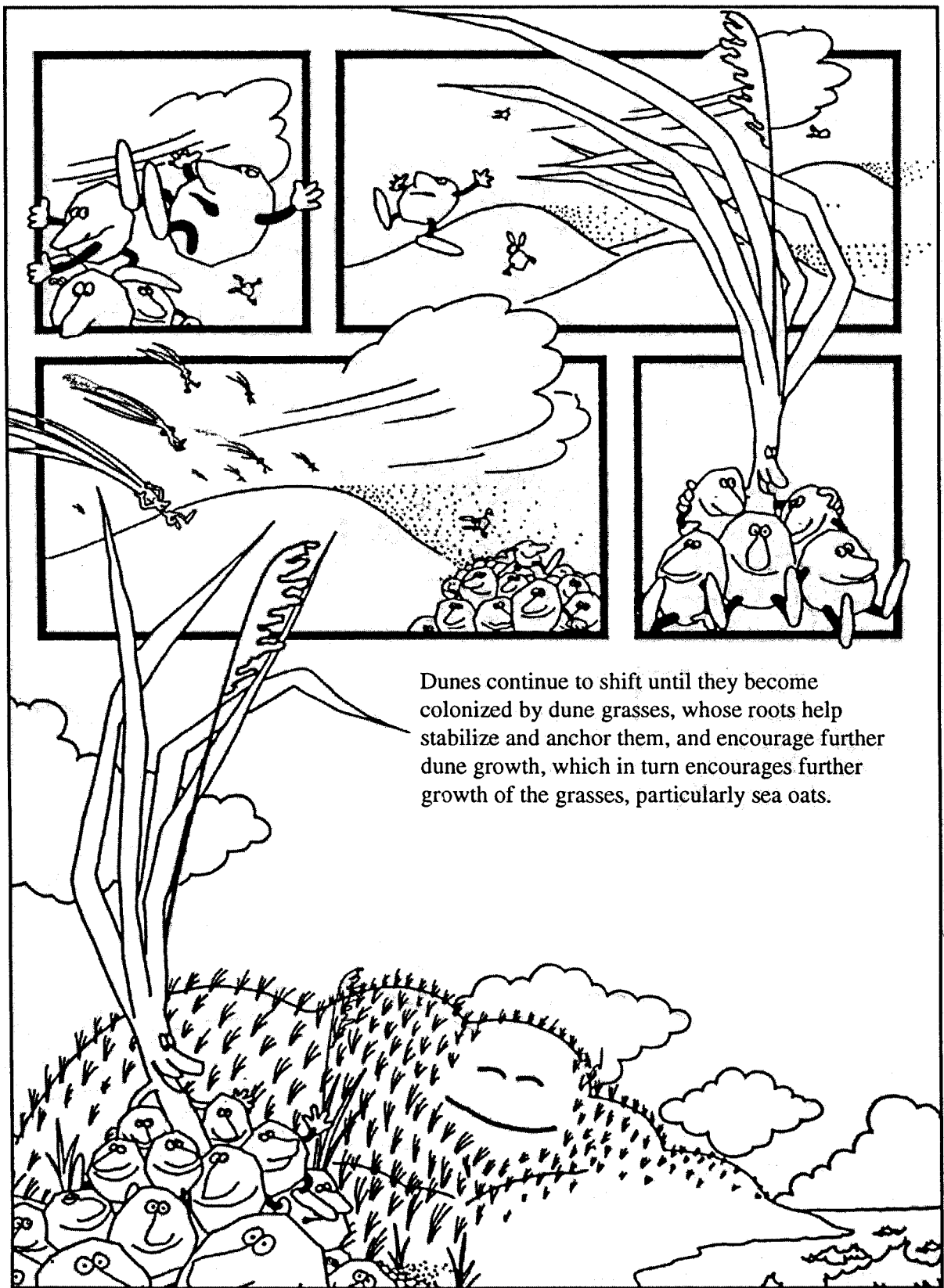


Offshore bars - underwater accumulations of sand - grow, grain by grain up to and above the water level until they become barrier islands.



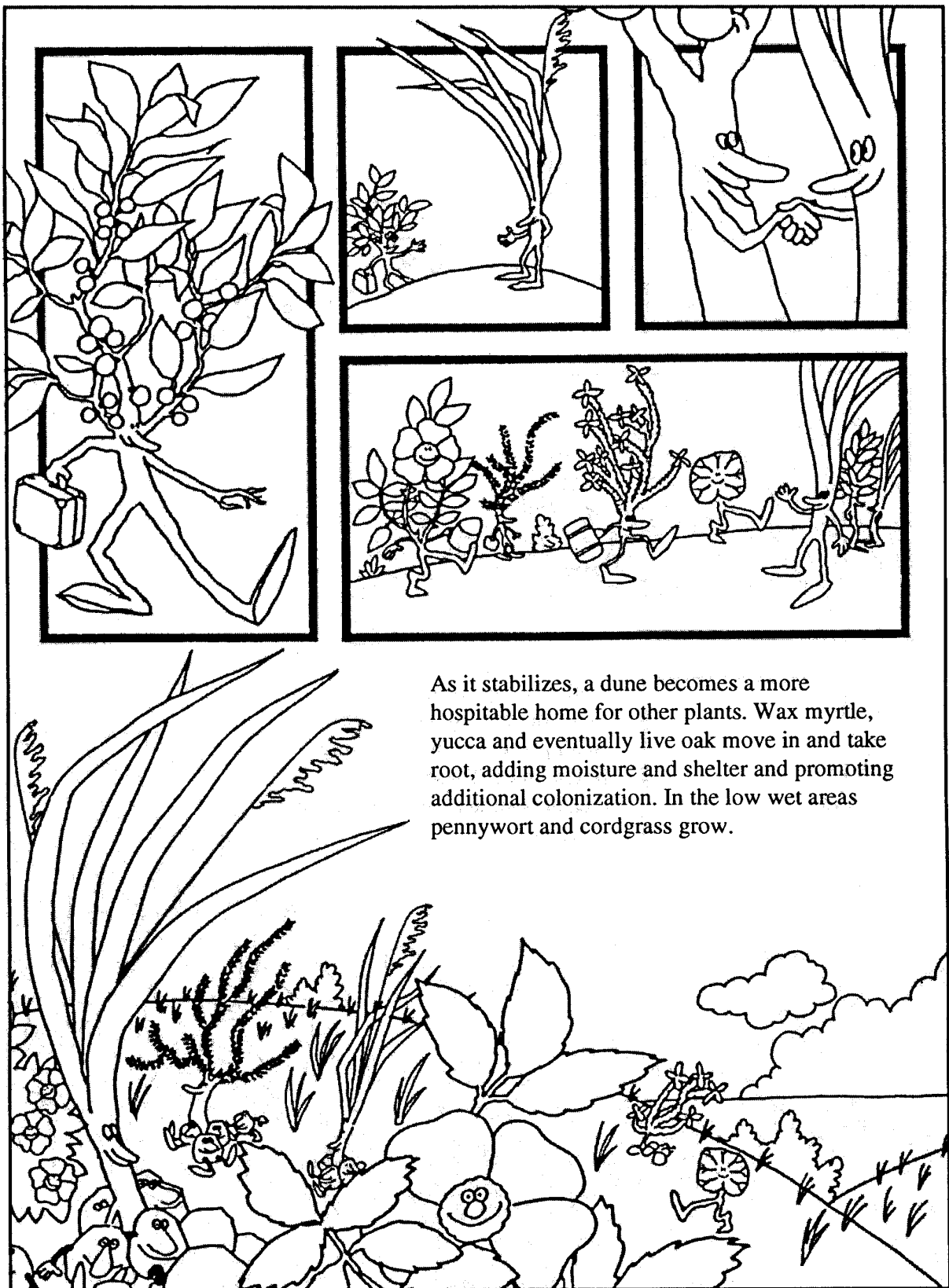


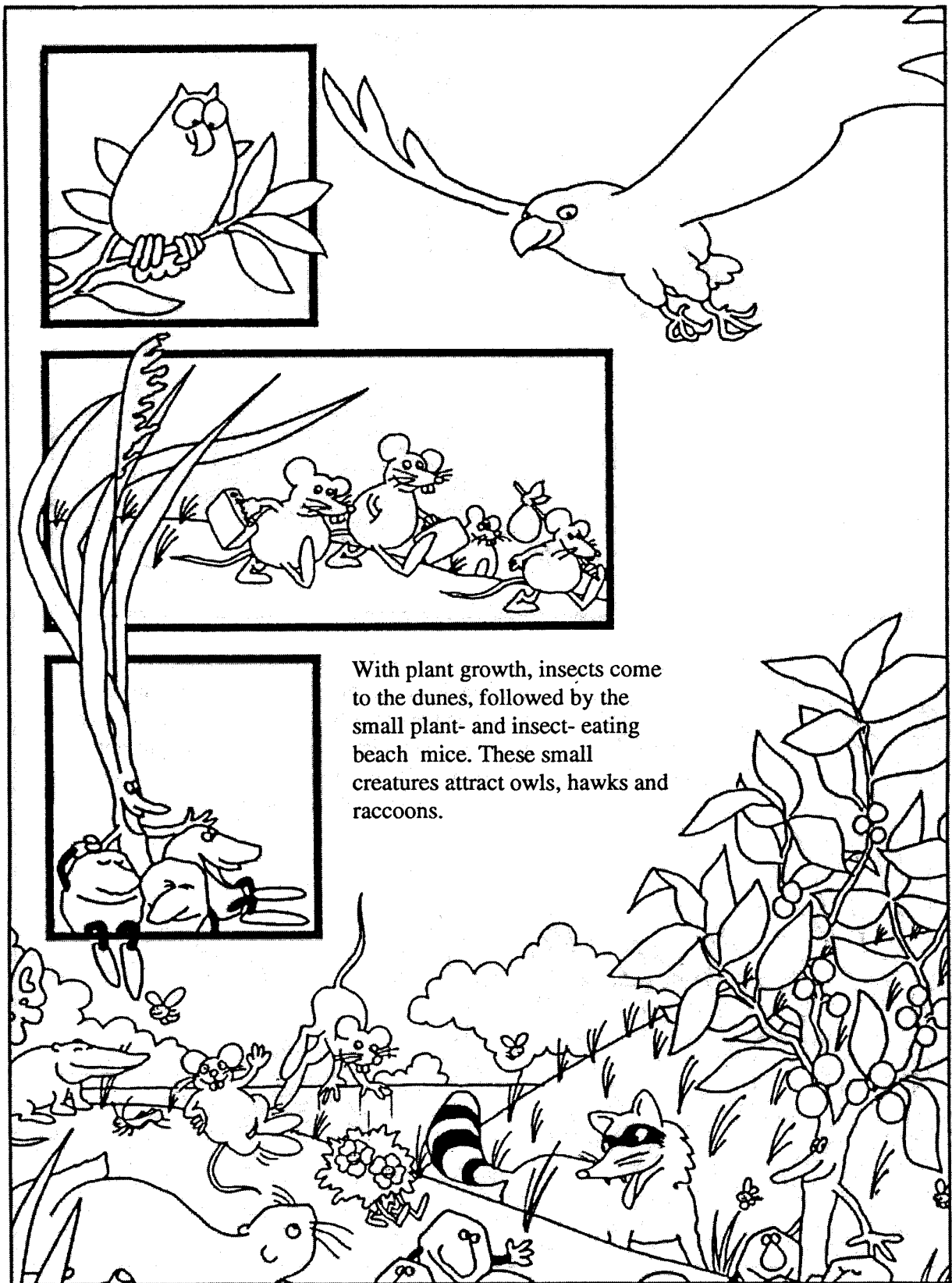


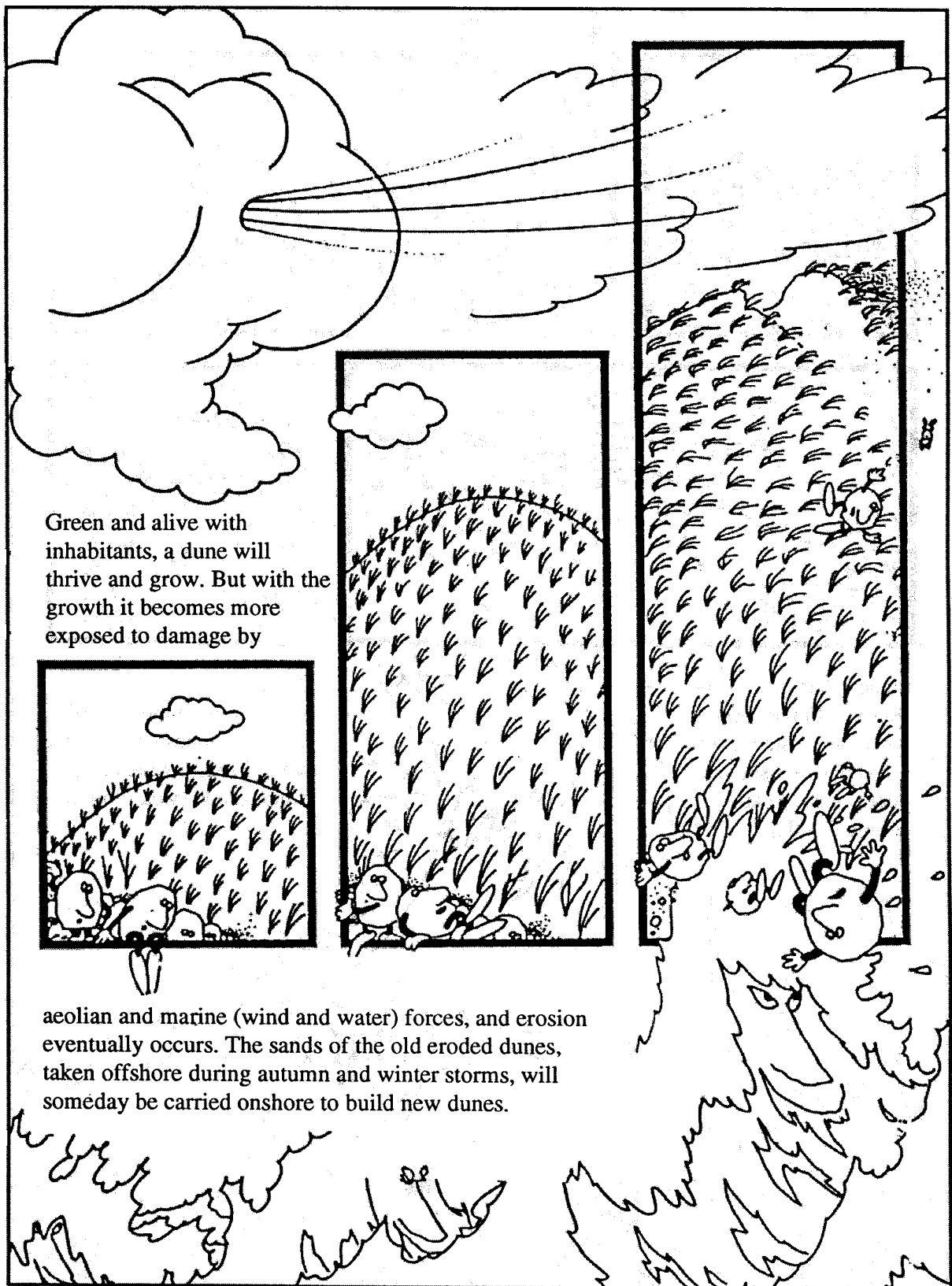


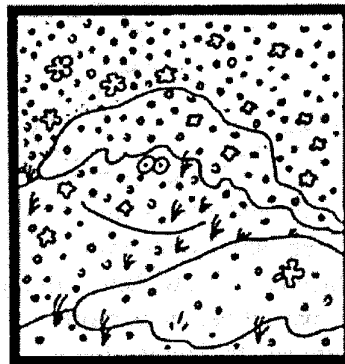
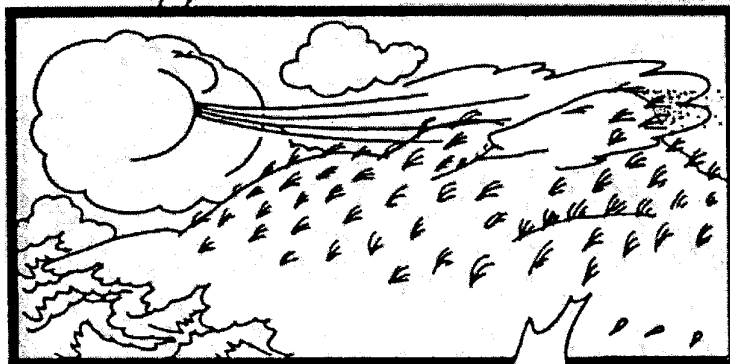
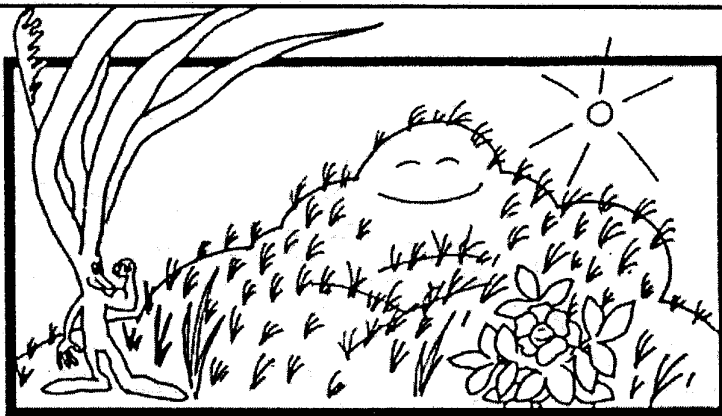
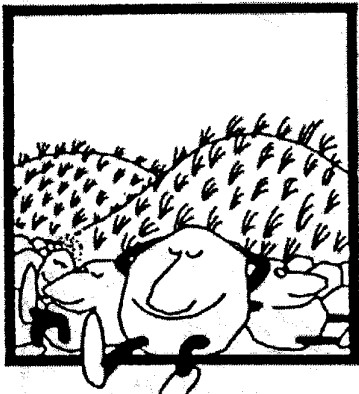
Dunes continue to shift until they become colonized by dune grasses, whose roots help stabilize and anchor them, and encourage further dune growth, which in turn encourages further growth of the grasses, particularly sea oats.





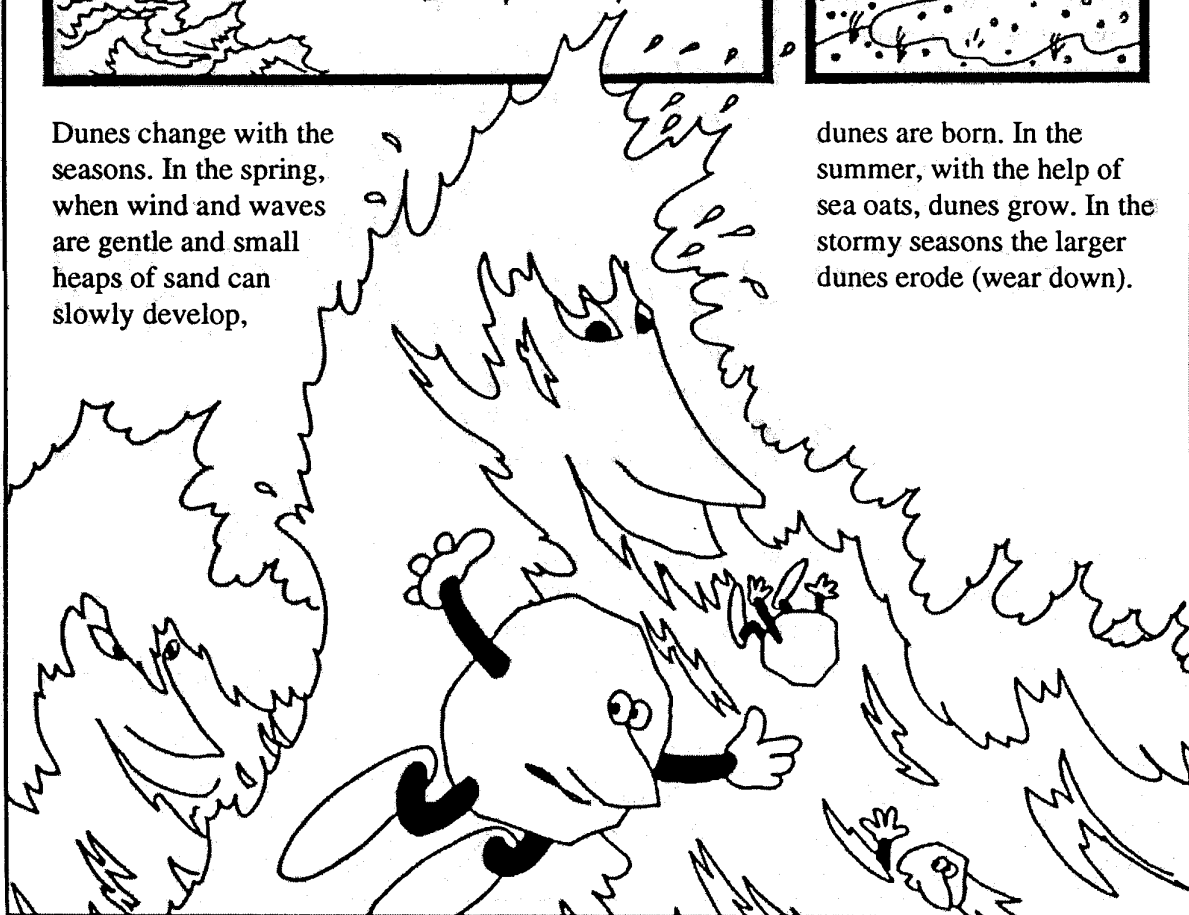






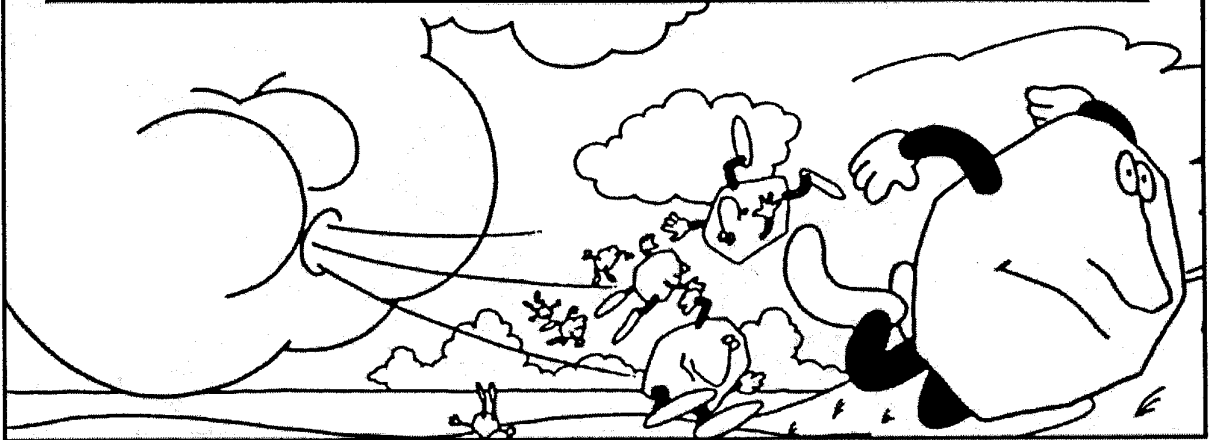
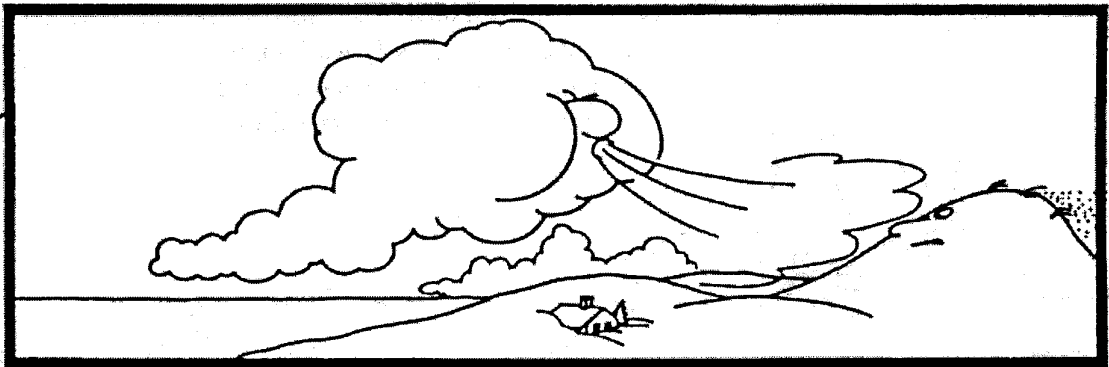
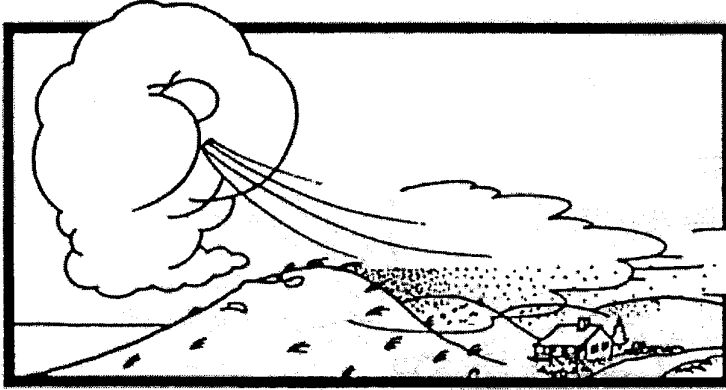
Dunes change with the seasons. In the spring, when wind and waves are gentle and small heaps of sand can slowly develop,

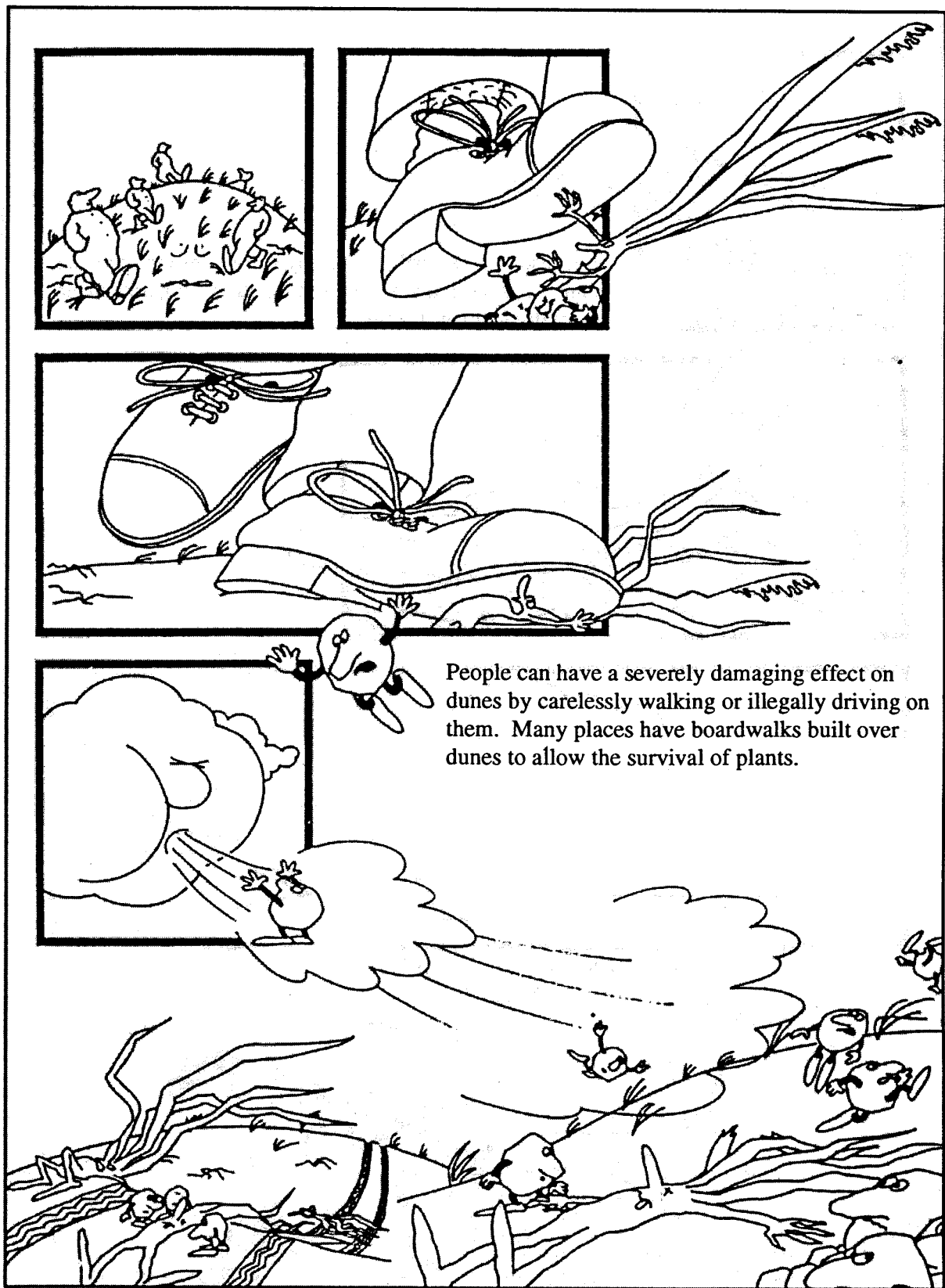
dunes are born. In the summer, with the help of sea oats, dunes grow. In the stormy seasons the larger dunes erode (wear down).

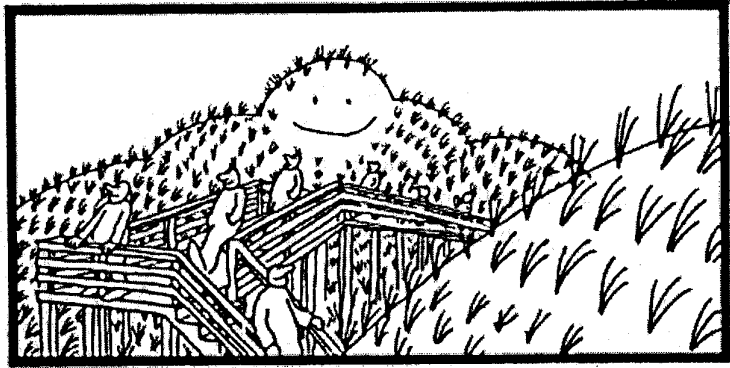




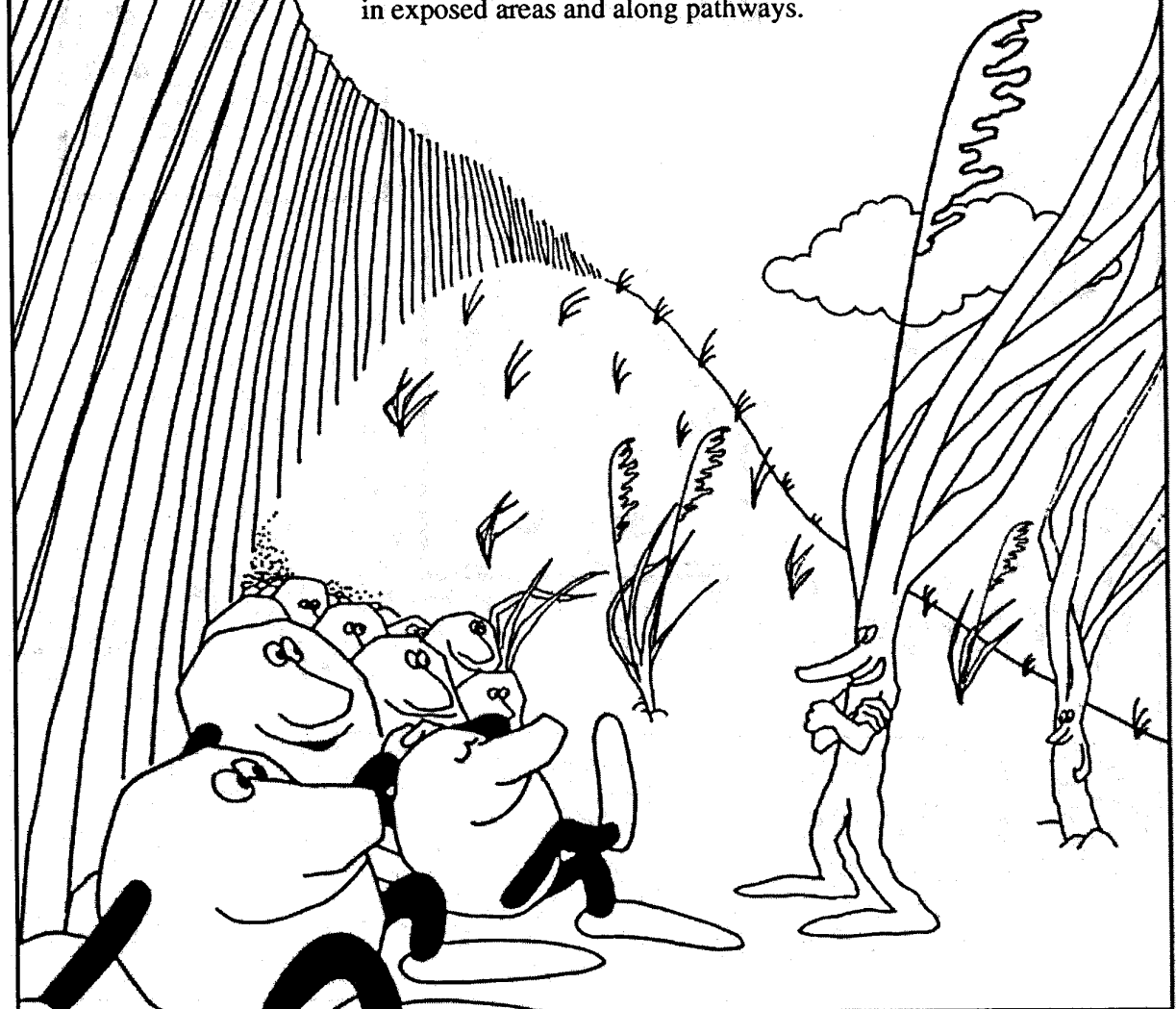
Because sand is easily moved by strong onshore winds, a dune has a natural tendency to migrate inland, and cover everything along its route.

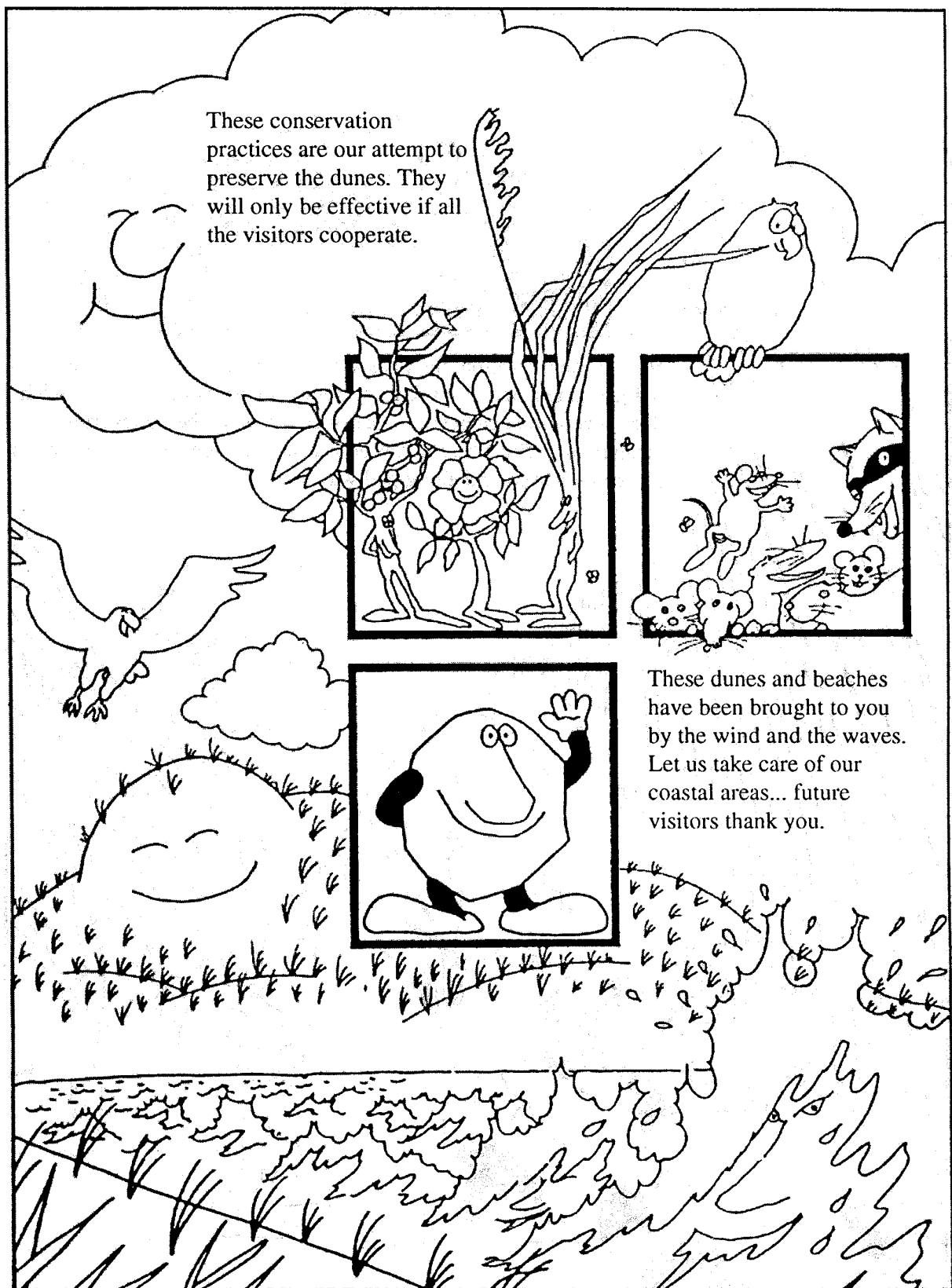






Various conservation practices are taken to protect our valuable and unique dune land. Sand-fences serve as obstructions behind which dune formation can begin. Boardwalks protect the dunes from pedestrian traffic. A program of transplanting encourages regrowth in exposed areas and along pathways.





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