

# TURTLE TIDES



Teaching children about the importance of recycling and reducing waste is an important component of CCC's educational efforts. Over 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean. Sea turtles are especially at risk to the effects of consuming marine debris due to having downward facing spines in their throats. This means sea turtles can not regurgitate, or throw-up, items they don't want in their stomachs. Plastic or other debris gets trapped in their stomach, preventing them from properly swallowing and processing food.

recyclable, re-usable, compostable, and landfill trash. After seeing how much waste they produced just from their lunch, the students began to bring their lunch in re-usable containers such as Tupperware.



School kids making recycling containers.

While the Eco-Explorers were learning about reducing their waste, school children in Tortuguero, Costa Rica, made their own recycling containers. CCC's Research Assistants spoke to the students about the need to reduce, reuse and recycle to help reduce the amount of trash in the community.



"Eco-Explorers" summer camp.

Last summer CCC was very busy with recycling activities to help reduce the amount of plastic waste. Beach clean-ups were only the beginning to a successful and ac-



Recycling Station in Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

tive summer. At the Barrier Island Center, a state-of-the-art environmental education center in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, CCC coordinates the education and outreach programs. In 2008, CCC launched a highly-popular "Eco-Explorers" summer camp for school-age kids. The students' first project was to save all their trash from lunch. Then they sorted their trash by

The RA's helped paint recycling containers with the children and established a recycling station at the school. To highlight the process of recycling, the students learned how to make their own paper.

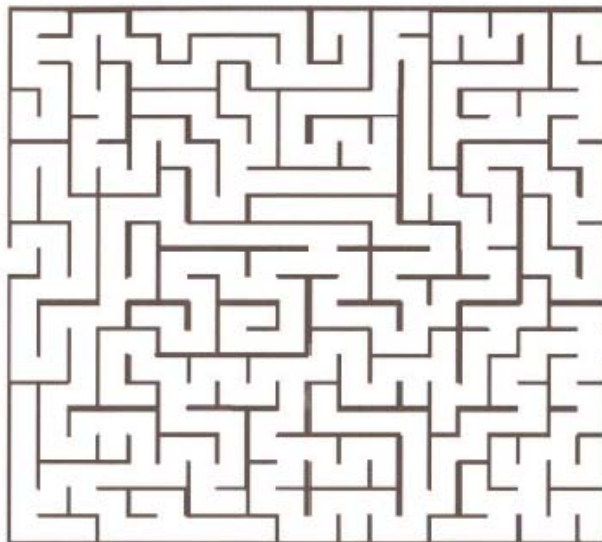
You can learn more about marine debris and watch videos about the threats to sea turtles on our website at [www.cccturtle.org/seaturtles](http://www.cccturtle.org/seaturtles).



Help RoJo Reach the Recycle Center



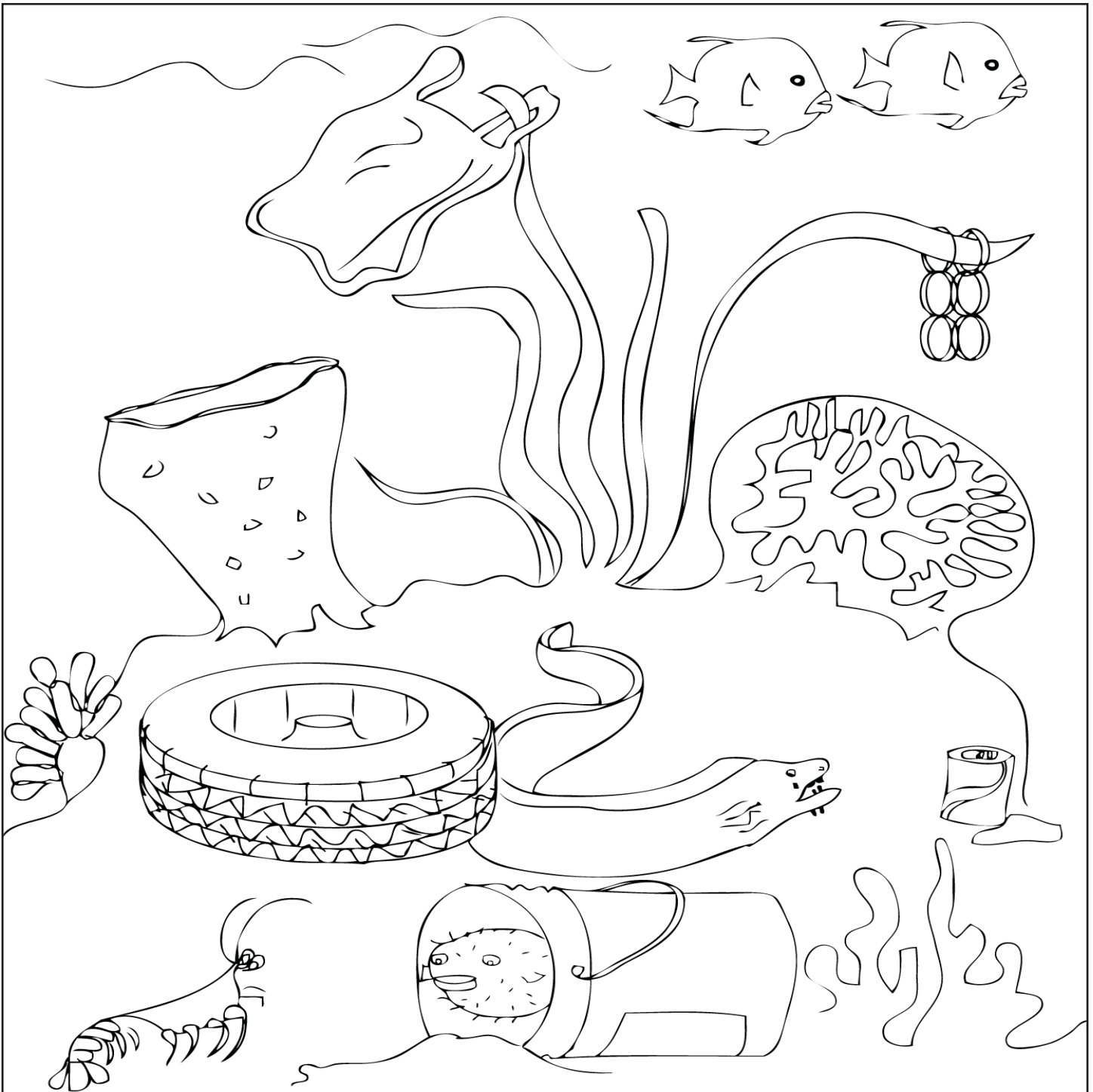
Recycle Center



RoJo on his water cycle  
(Illustration by Samantha Shepard)

From *The Educator's Guide to Marine Debris*, COSEE Publication, 2009





Place an "X" over the things that don't belong in the ocean, then color the picture.

From *Junior Marine Biologist Student Handbook*. Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 2008.

Are you doing something cool that relates to sea turtles and their habitats? If you, your family and friends, your school or the people in your community are doing something to help sea turtles, please let us know about it!



Send us your artwork, letters, photos and poems. We may not be able to return them, but we will print many of them in the Turtle Tides Newsletter. Please include your name, age and address and mail it to:

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