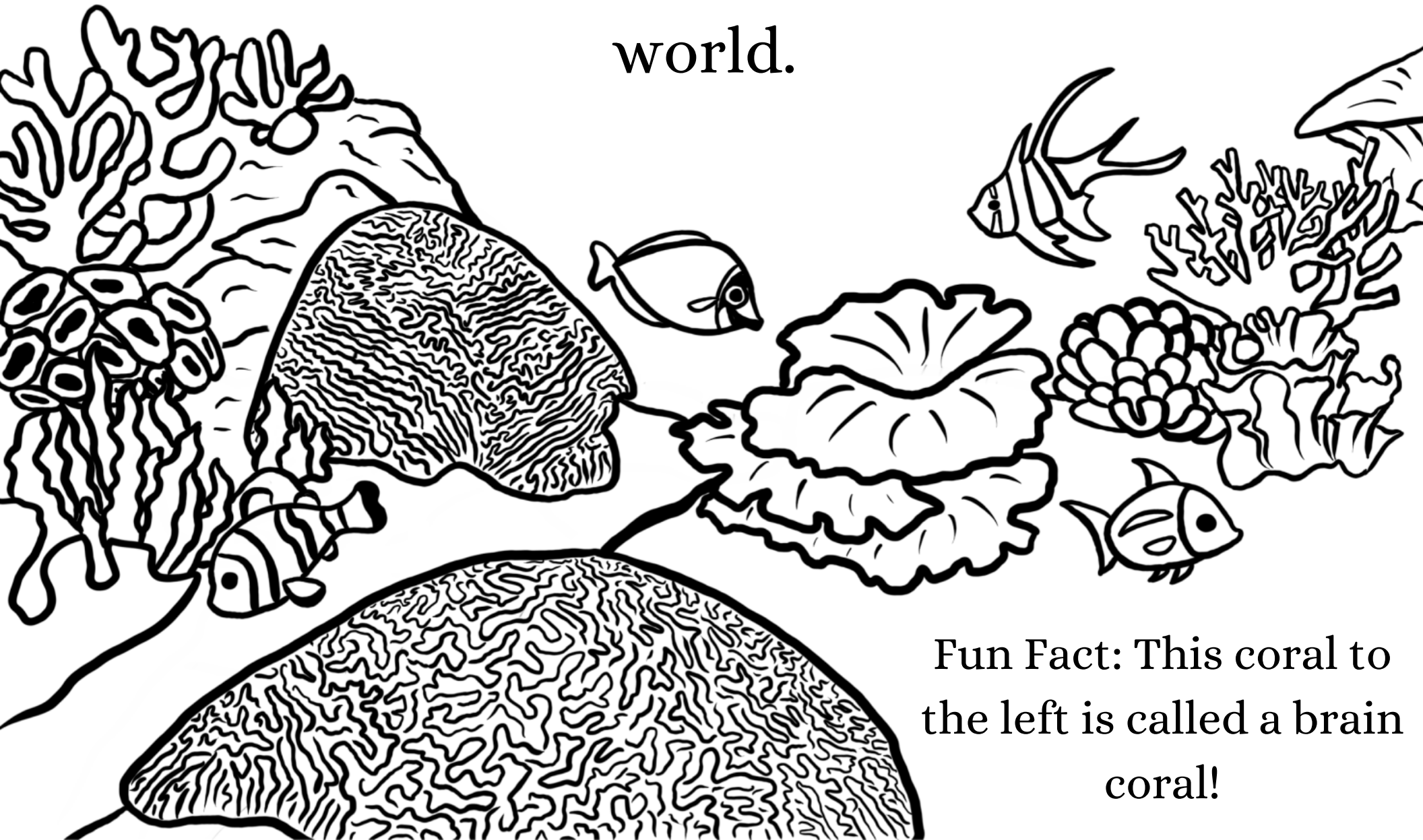




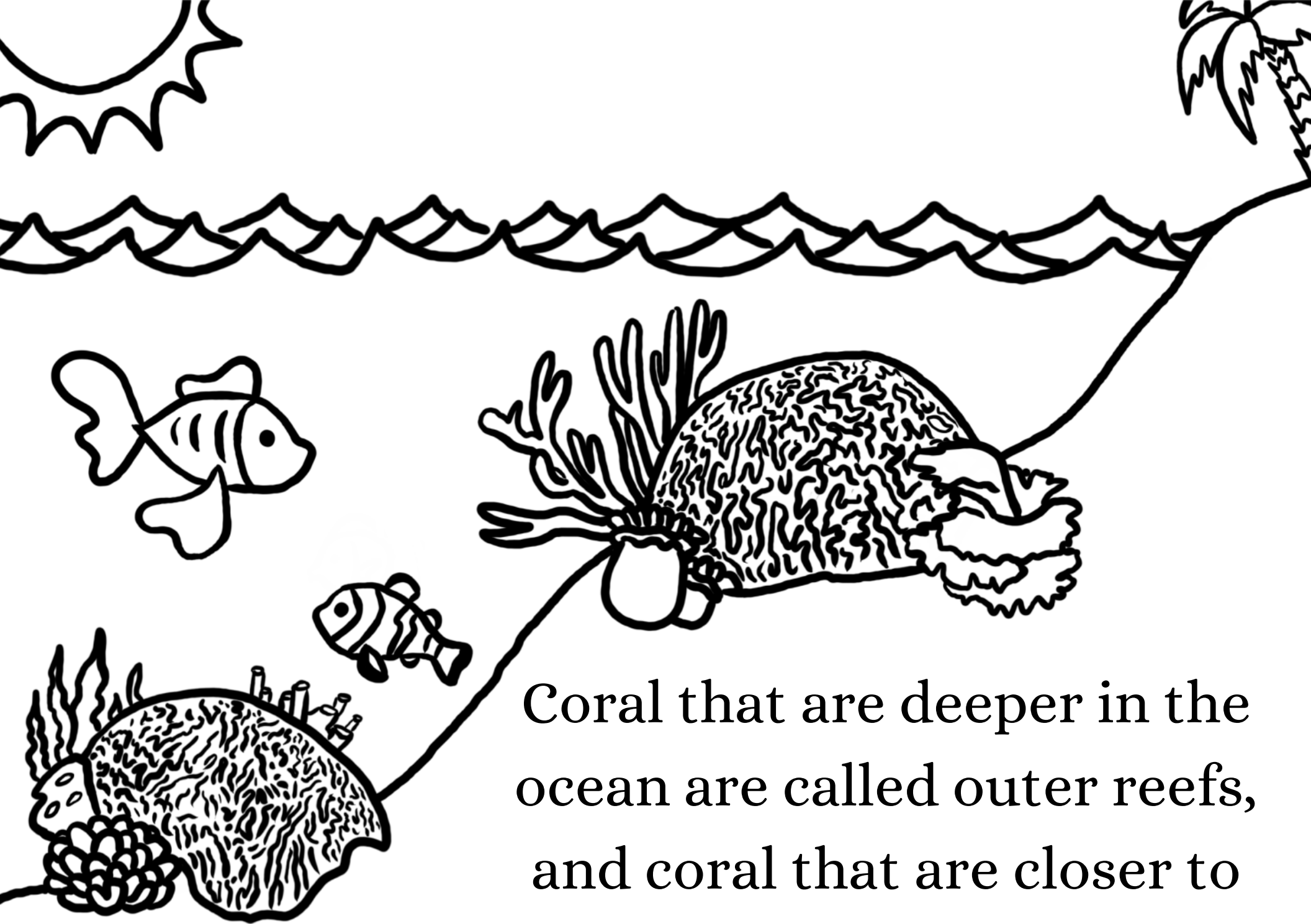
The Coral Microbiome

by Maya Weissman

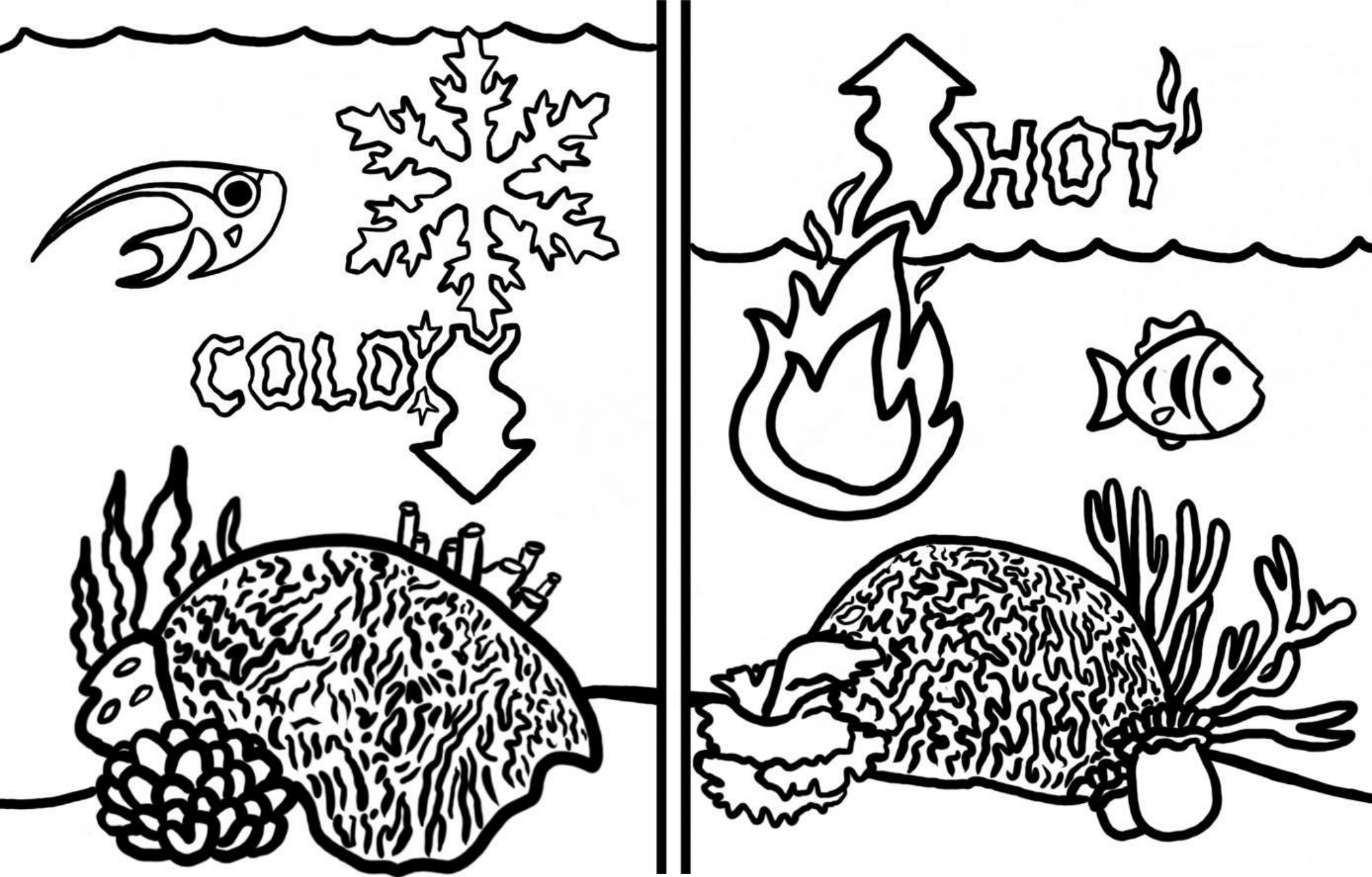
Coral are living animals made up of little organisms called polyps. Coral reefs support some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.



Fun Fact: This coral to the left is called a brain coral!

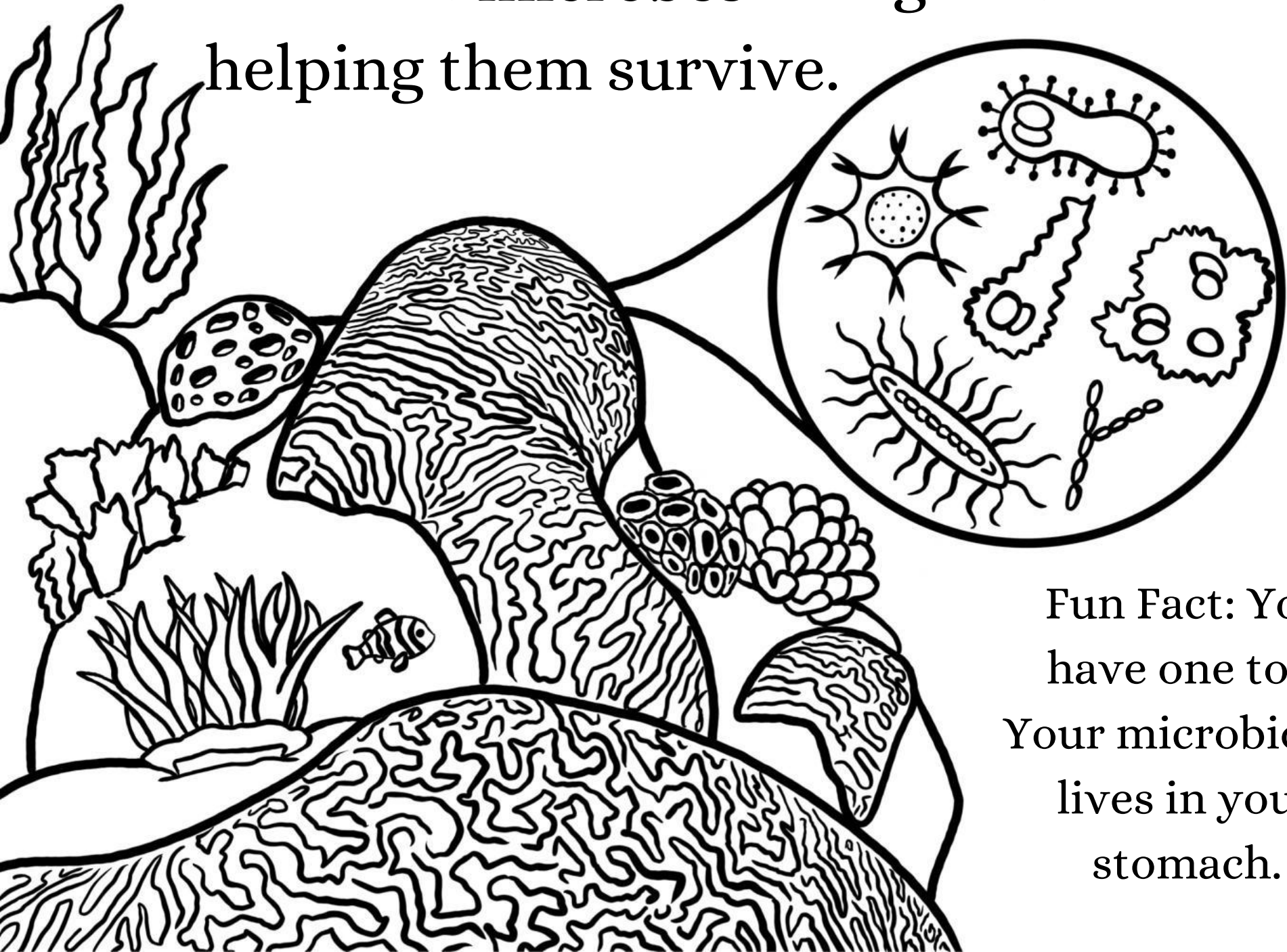


Coral that are deeper in the ocean are called outer reefs, and coral that are closer to shore are called inner reefs.

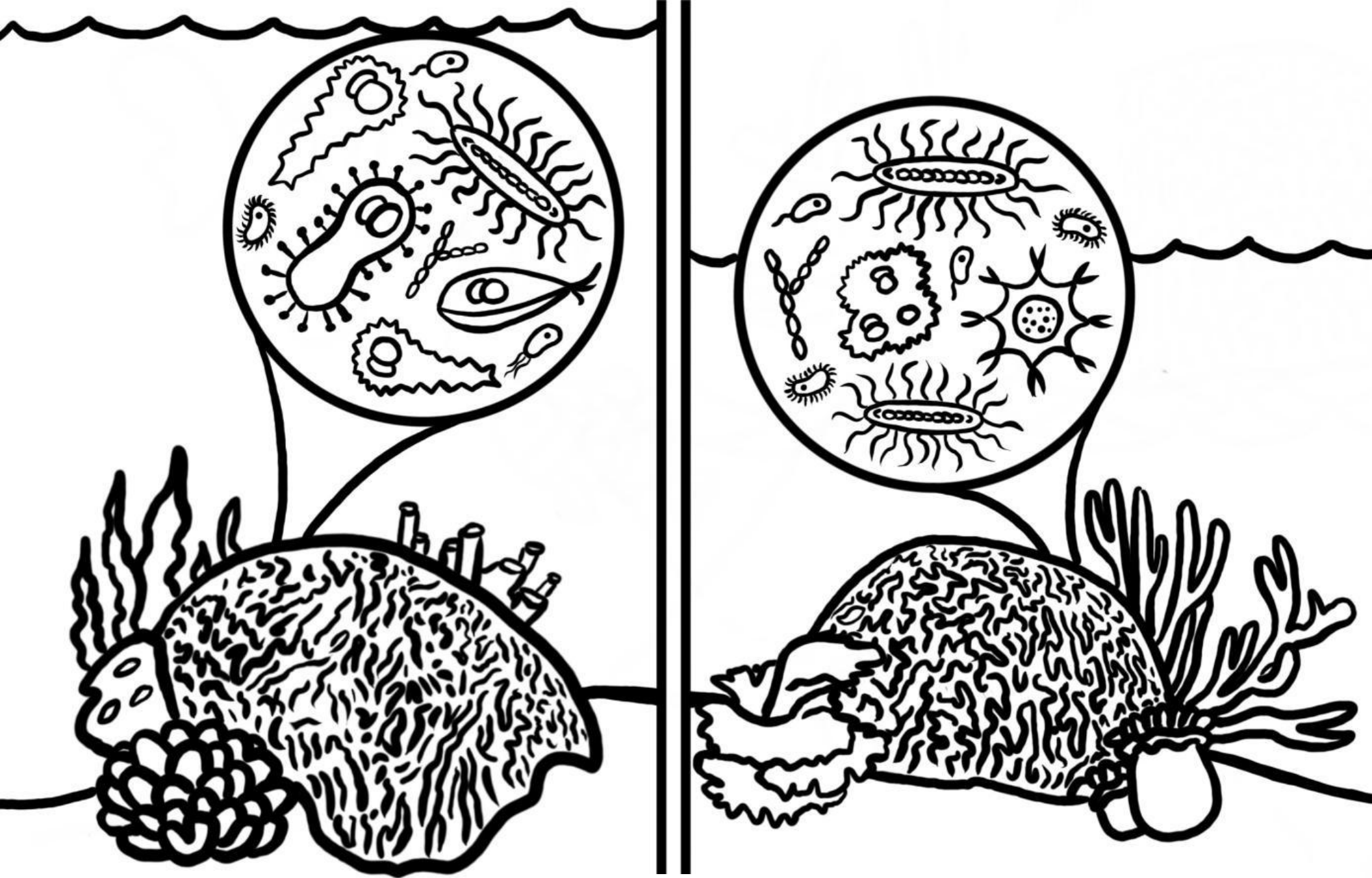


Outer reefs are cooler than inner reefs, but their temperature doesn't change as much.

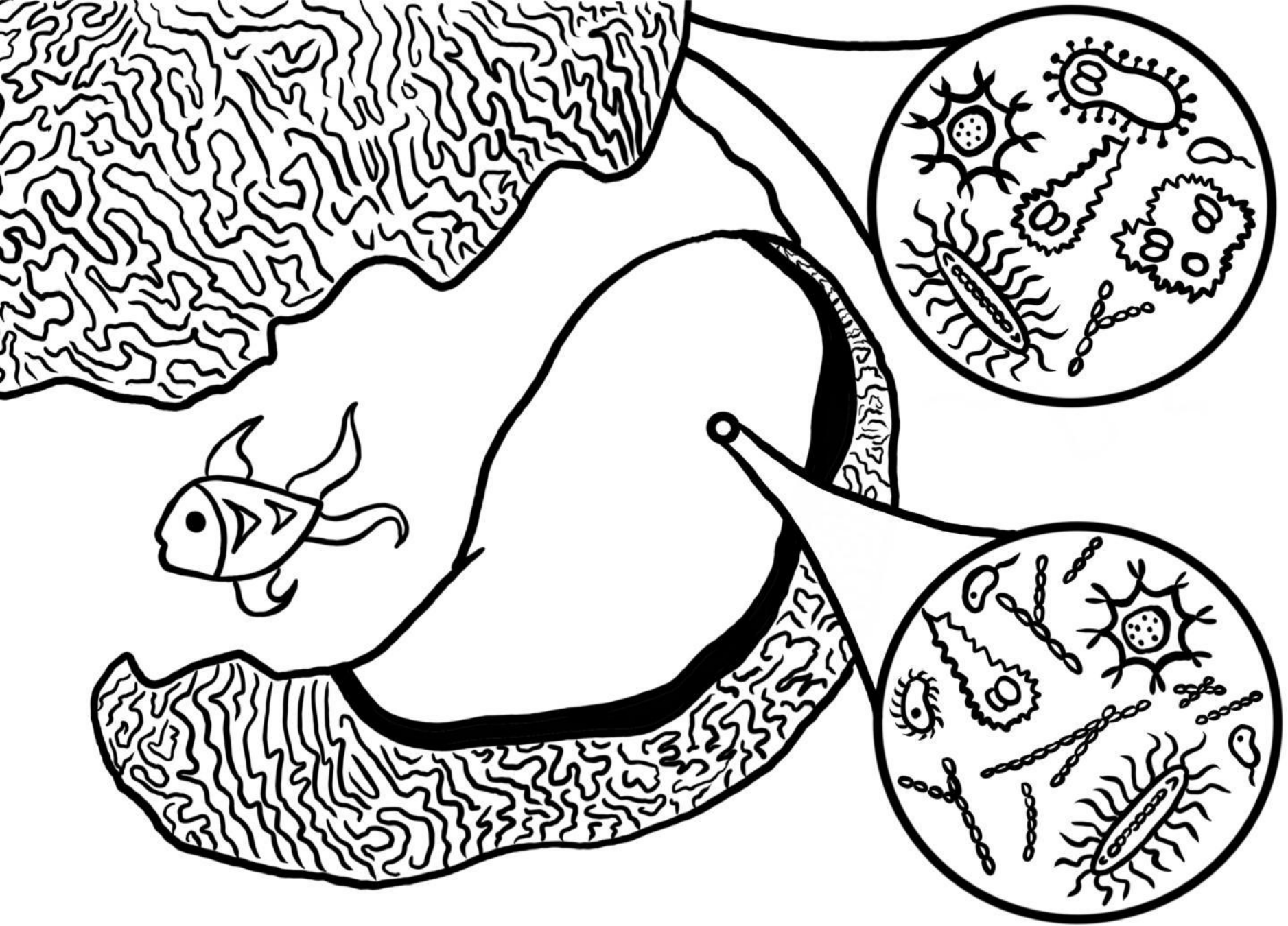
Coral have a **microbiome**: a group of different **microbes** living on them and helping them survive.



Fun Fact: You
have one too!
Your microbiome
lives in your
stomach.



Different **microbes** live on the inner and outer reefs, because they're in different temperatures.



When their microbiome is out of balance, coral can get very sick with **black band disease**.

It's important to
help our oceans
stay cool...

so coral can be
happy and healthy!

