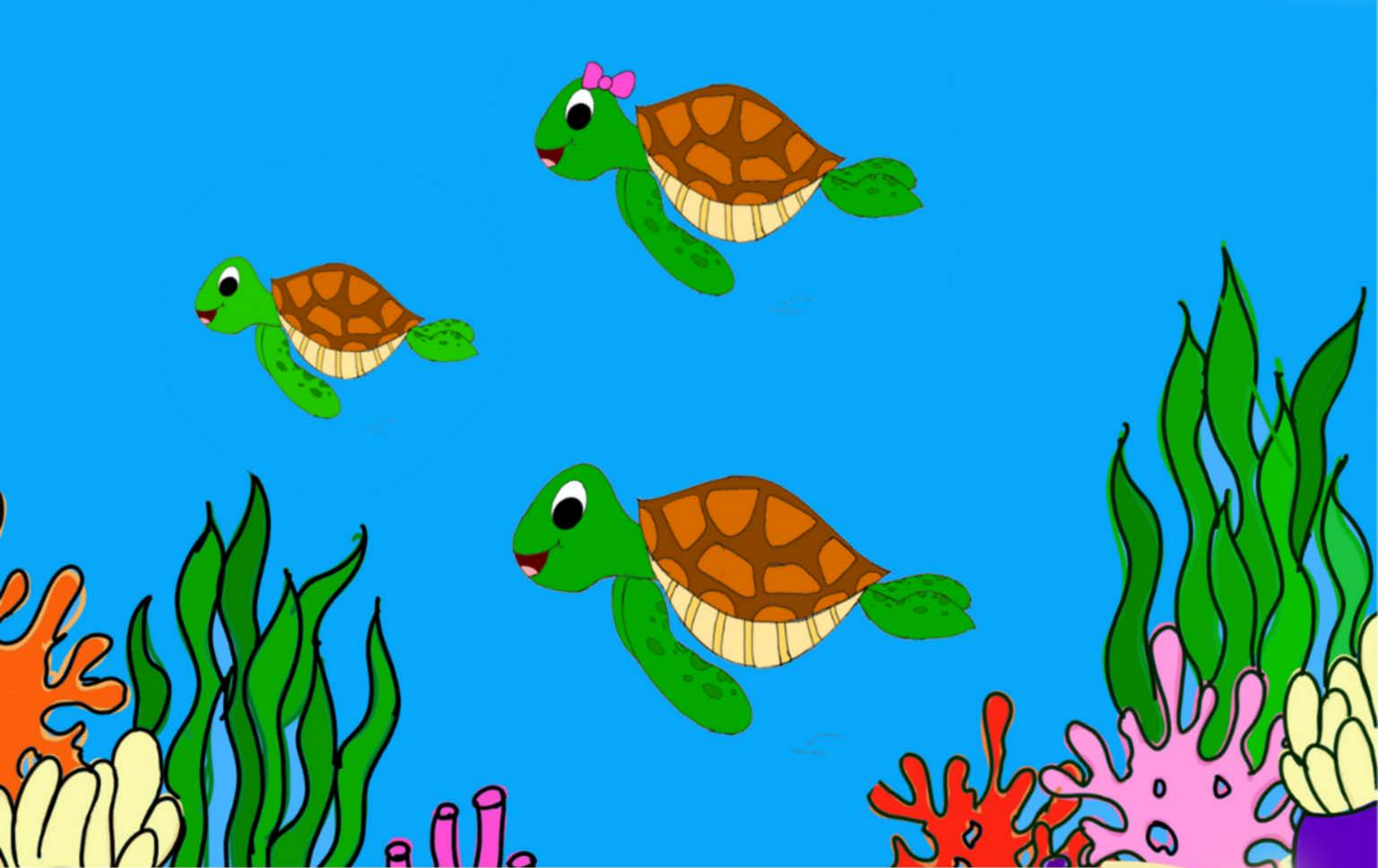


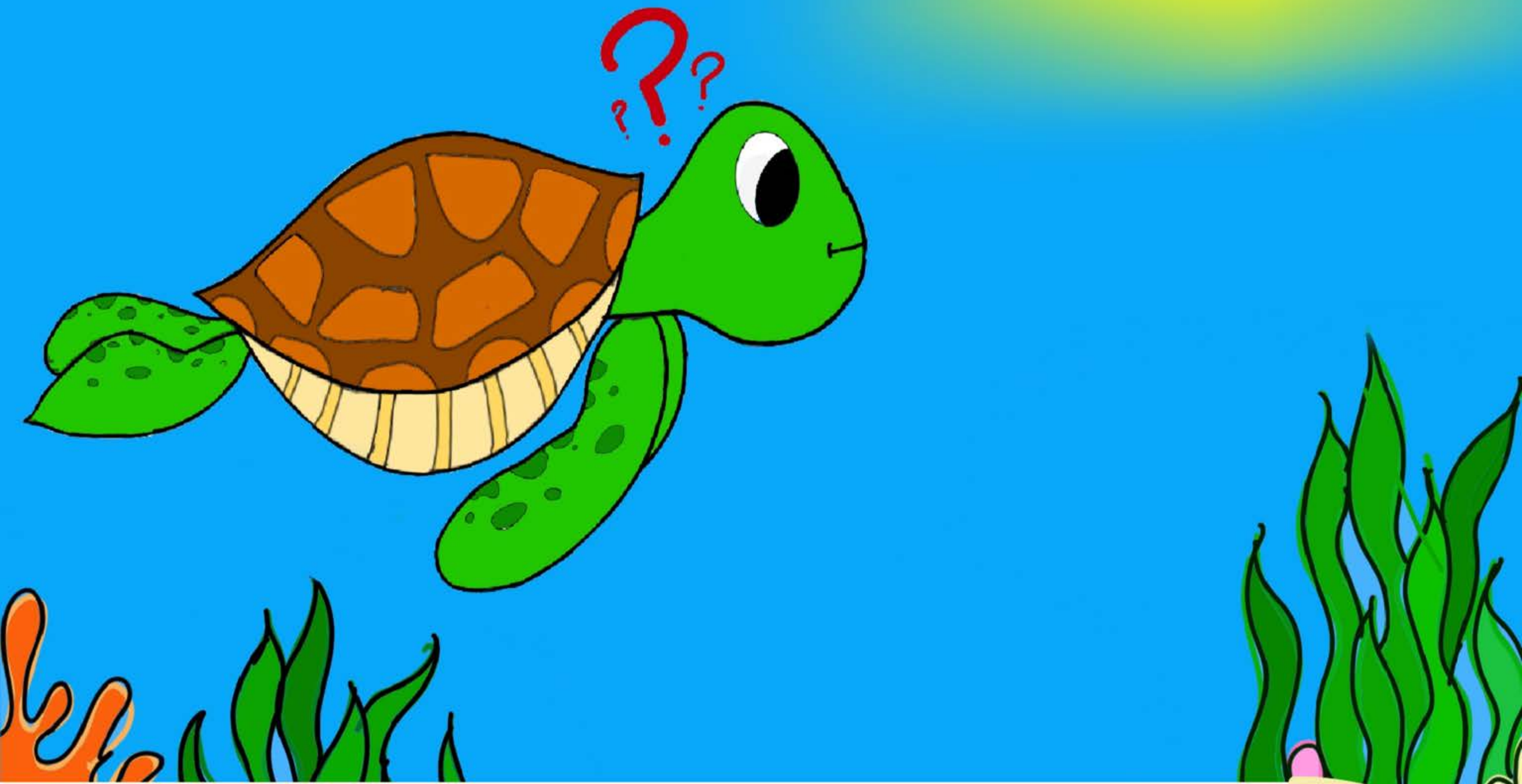
Tara The Brave Turtle



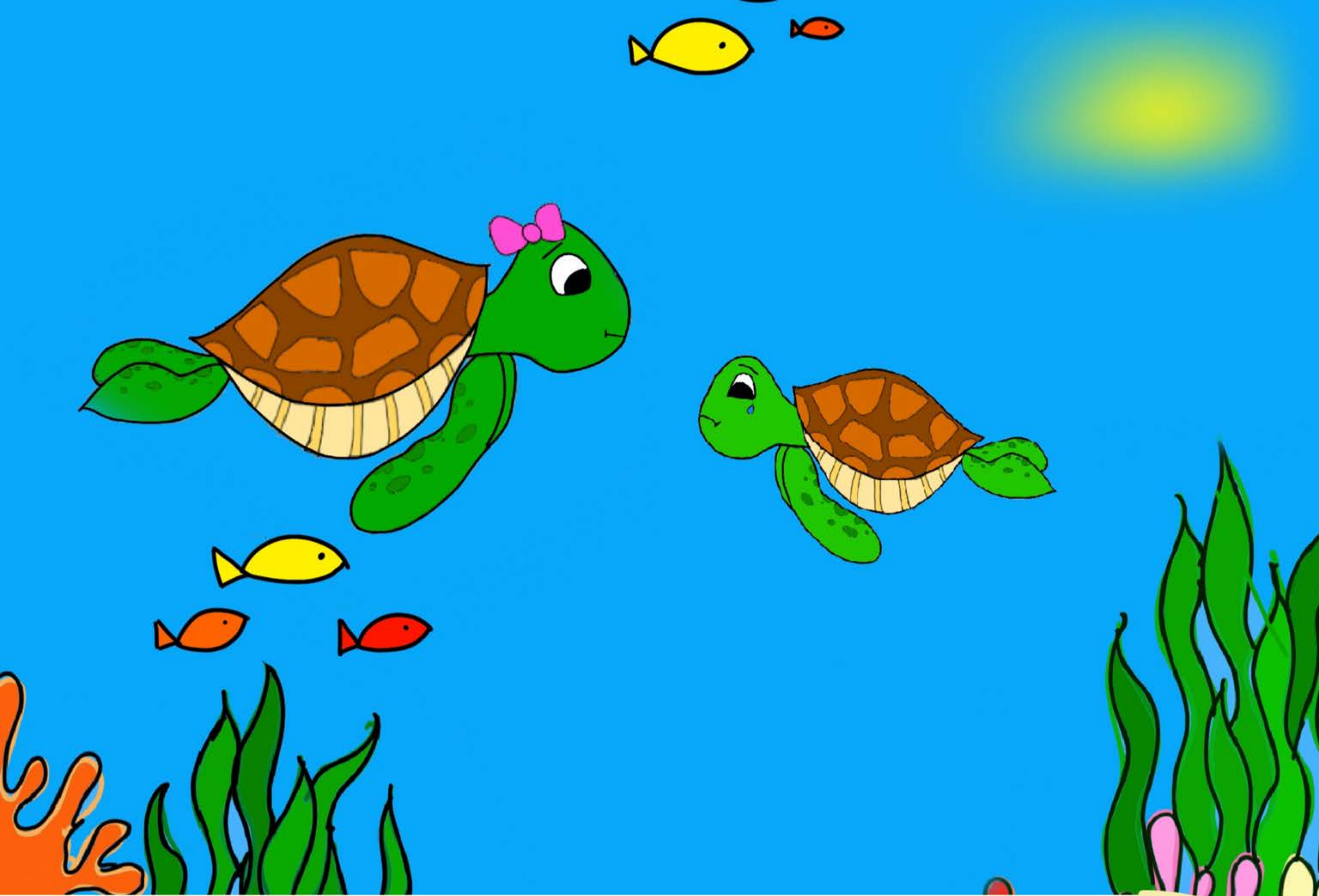
By Raghd Farghaly



In the deep blue river, not far from a beautiful coral reef, lived a happy turtle family. There was Mama Turtle, Papa Turtle, and their daughter, Tara. Tara loved to explore the river, always curious about the world around her.



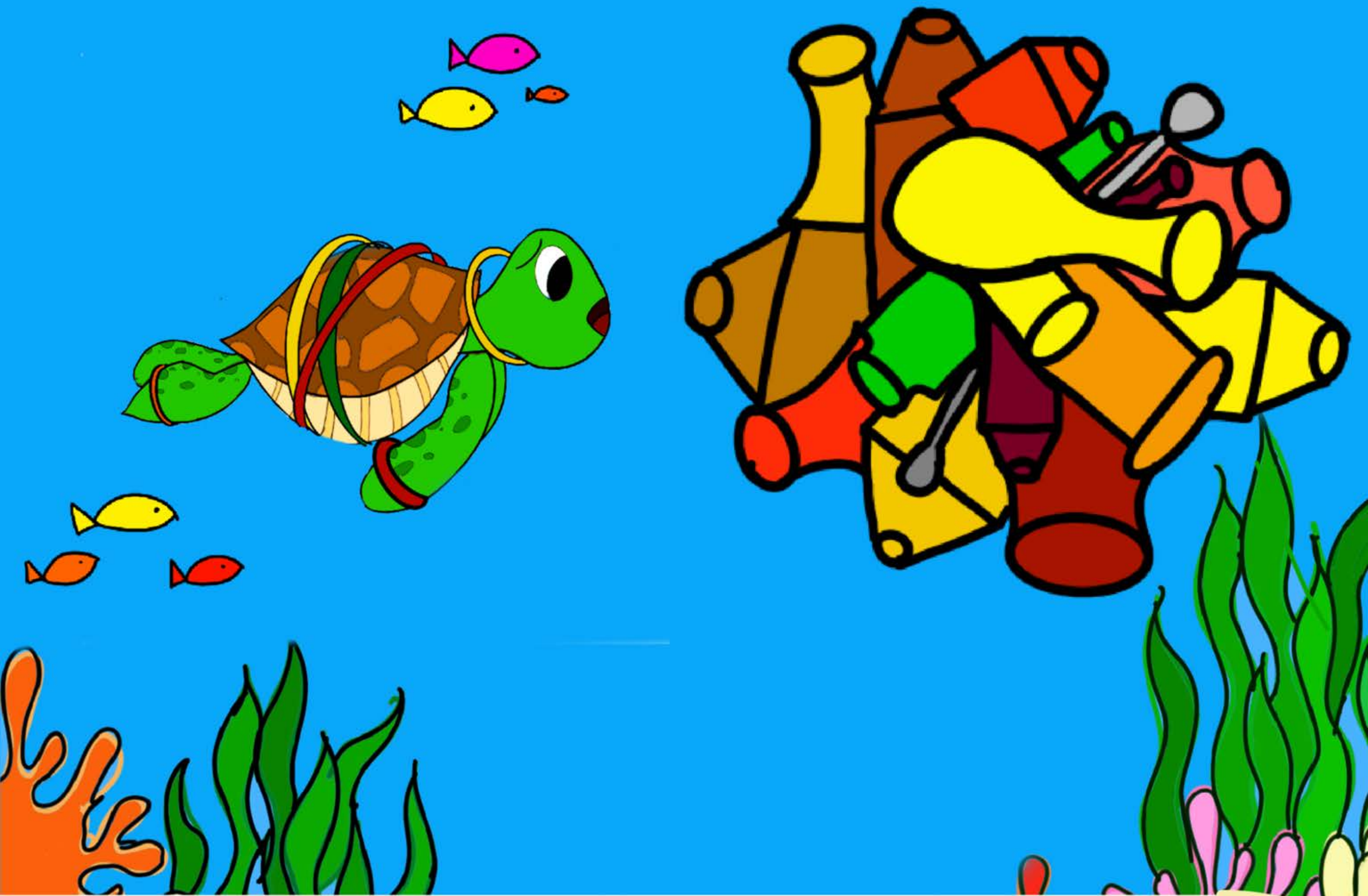
One day, Tara saw something shimmering far away in the distance. "What's that?" she wondered. It looked like a shiny, colorful island. Her curiosity grew, and she decided to swim closer to see what it was.



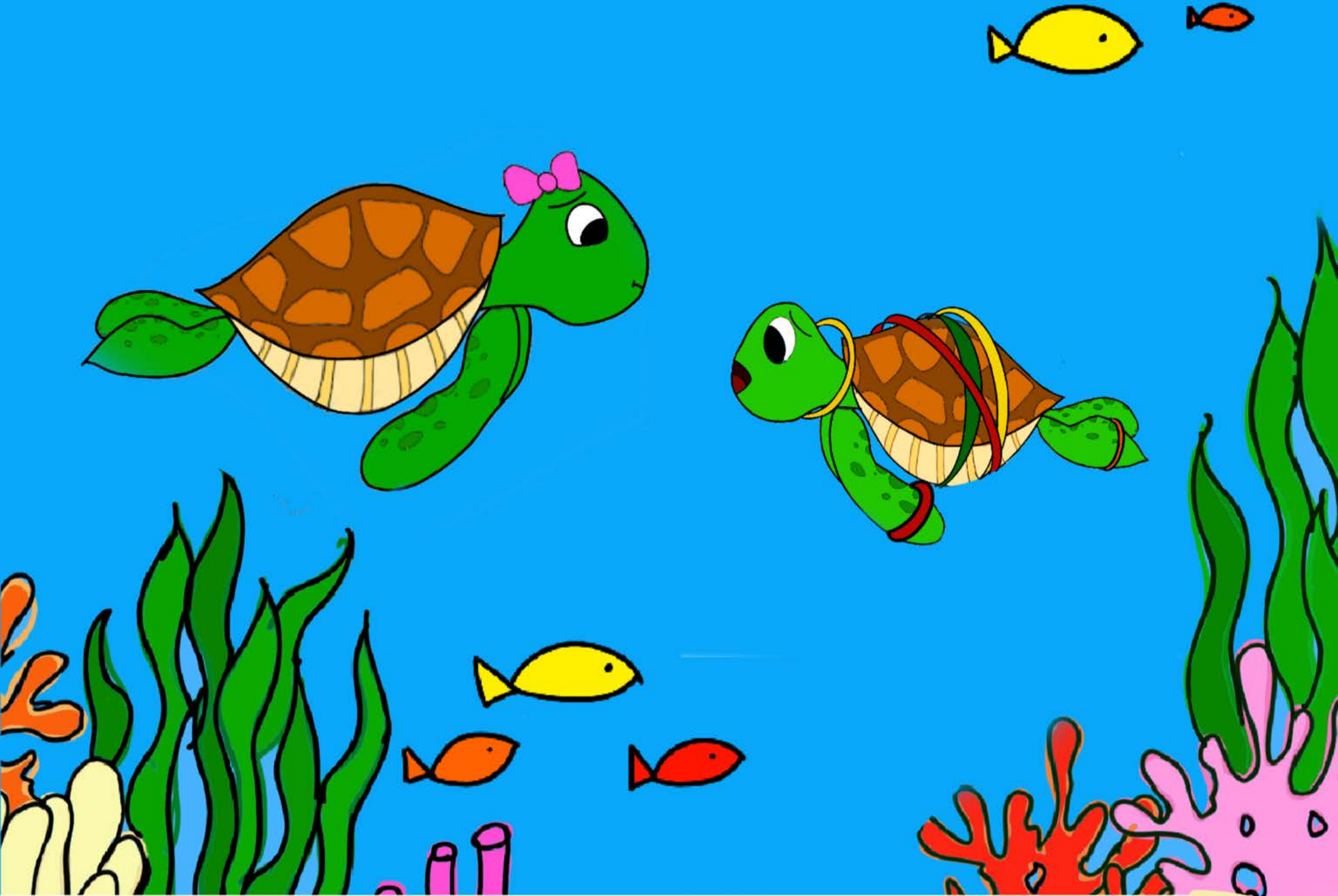
"Tara, stay close!" warned Mama Turtle. "There are places in the river that are not safe." Tara was sad as she wanted to see what was there. She promised herself she'd just take a quick look.



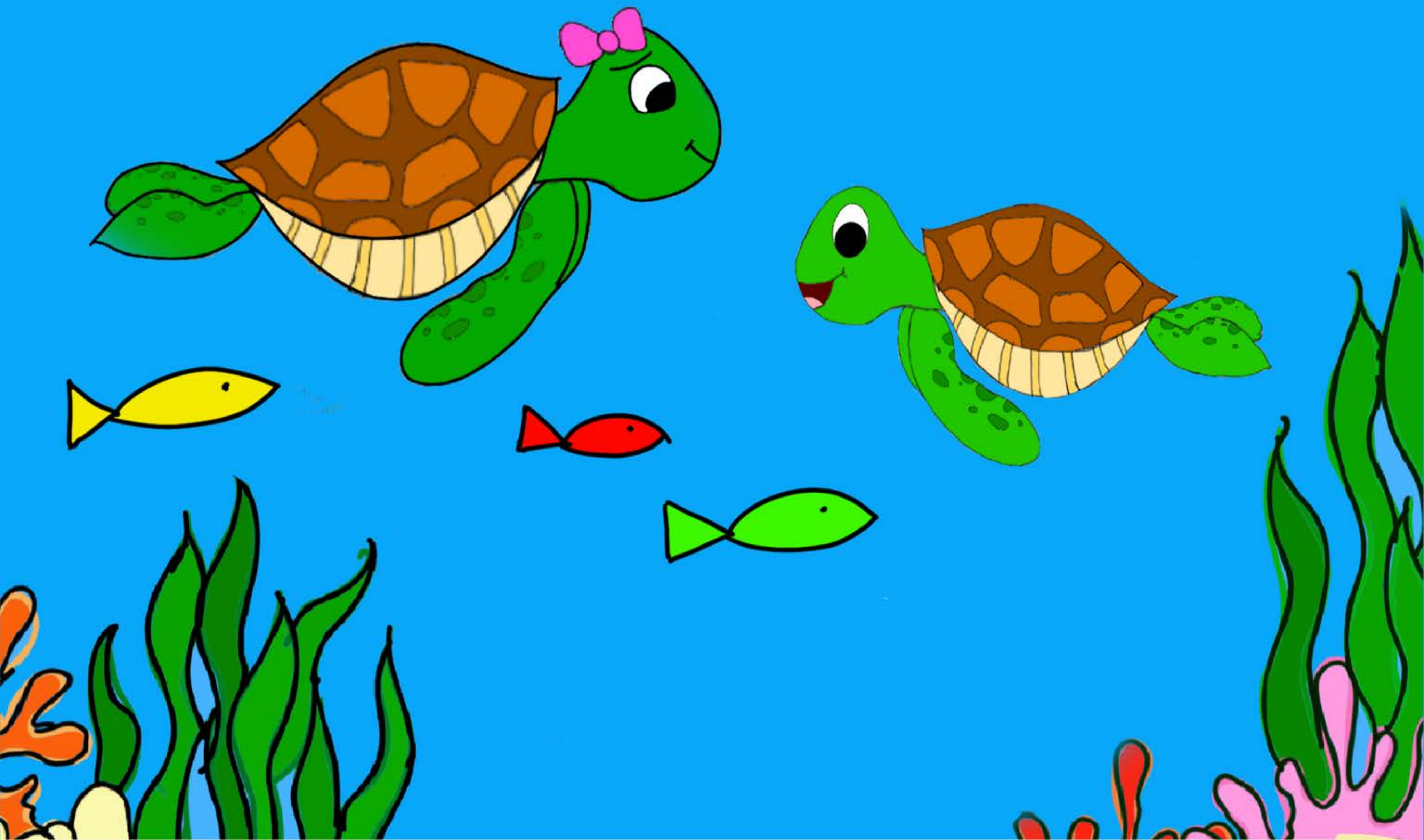
As Tara swam closer, she realized the shimmering "island" wasn't an island at all. It was a huge, swirling patch of floating trash! There were plastic bottles, bags, and all sorts of things that didn't belong in the ocean.



Suddenly, Tara's flipper got caught in a piece of plastic! She tried to free herself, but the more she struggled, the tighter the plastic became. Tara was scared and wished she had listened to her mama.



Far away, Mama Turtle felt something was wrong. She swam as fast as they could toward the garbage patch, hoping to find Tara before it was too late.



Mama Turtle found Tara tangled in plastic. She gently freed her with calm, careful flipper pulls.

Tara swam close, tired and scared. "I'm sorry,

Mama... I should've listened."

Mama nudged her softly. "I'm just glad you're safe.

Now you understand why we must be careful."

Together, they swam away from the garbage patch,

Tara a little wiser than before.

I love swimming in clean water. When trash enters the river, it hurts my friends and me. Please keep our water clean—throw trash in bins, recycle, and save water. Your small actions help protect my home and keep us safe.

