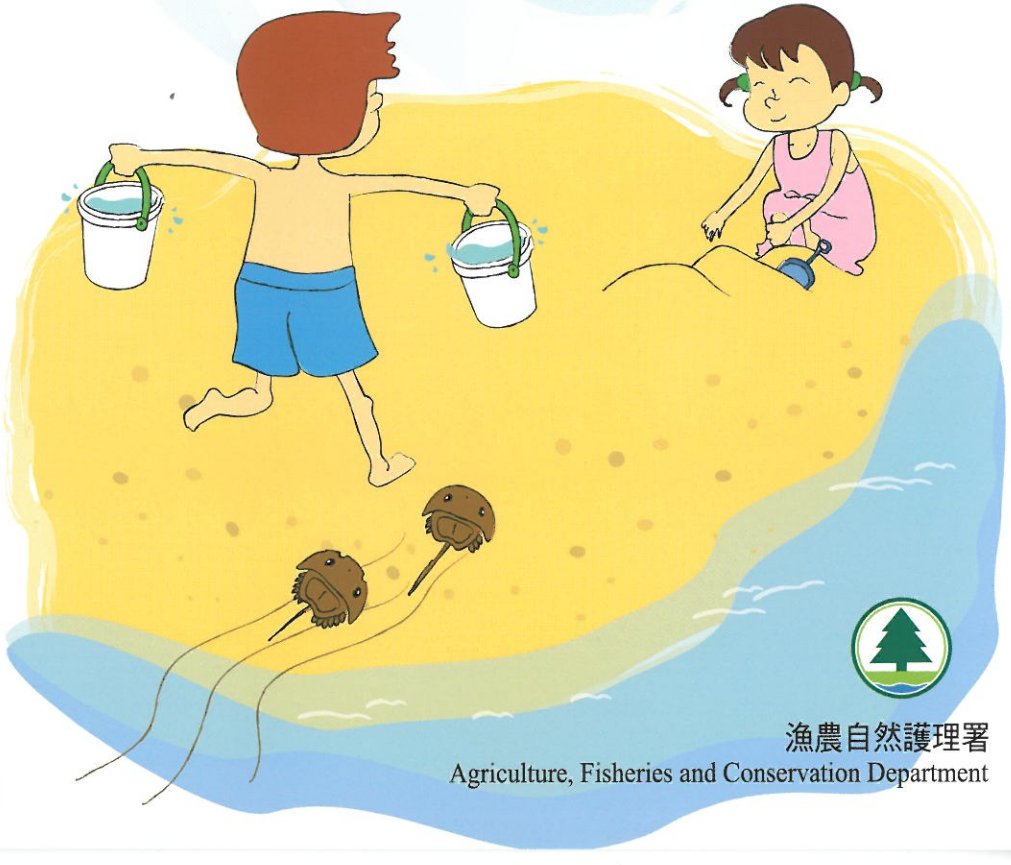
相約三億年後

See you 300 million years later



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炎炎夏日，到海灘玩耍是最好不過了。看！馬高和馬莉兩兄妹正興奮地建立他們的沙堡王國。

It is always a good idea to go to the beach on such a hot summer day! Marco and Mary are having fun building their sandcastle kingdom.

「城堡要有護城河！」馬高手舞足蹈地說。

"There should be a moat around the castle!" Marco says excitedly.

「讓我為城堡加點裝飾！」馬莉邊說邊把「小圓石」放在城門上。

"Let me put up some decorations!" Mary says and places a "rock" at the gate.

突然，

Suddenly,

奇怪的事發生了！

A strange thing happens!

「小圓石」竟鑽入沙中。兄妹倆人驚訝地睜著眼睛。

The children stare in surprise at the "rock", which is creeping into the sand.

「哈哈…」爸爸笑道：「孩子，這不是什麼石頭，是在地球上存活了超過三億年的馬蹄蟹啊！」
"Haha..." Dad laughs, "Kids, that's not a rock. It's a horseshoe crab. It has been on earth for over 300 million years!"
「馬蹄？」
"Horseshoe?"
「不，馬蹄蟹只是外形像馬蹄和蟹，其實牠們是蜘蛛和蠍子的親戚，真名是鱟。由於鱟比恐龍出現還要早，而且多年來樣子也沒有大改變，所以又稱為活化石。」媽媽解釋說。
"They bear some reserblance to a horseshoe or a crab, but actually are the relatives of spiders and scorpions. As horseshoe crabs appeared long before dinosaurs and their appearance remains almost unchanged, they are often called Living Fossils," Mun explains.
「蟹？」
"Crab?"
「看！真有趣，城門前有三條『川』字形的線，倒好作為護城河！」馬高指著他的大發現。
"Look! It's so funny, those three lines are forning a moat!" Marco points at his discovery.

「那是馬蹄蟹的腳印，看來牠在挖隧道出海呢！」

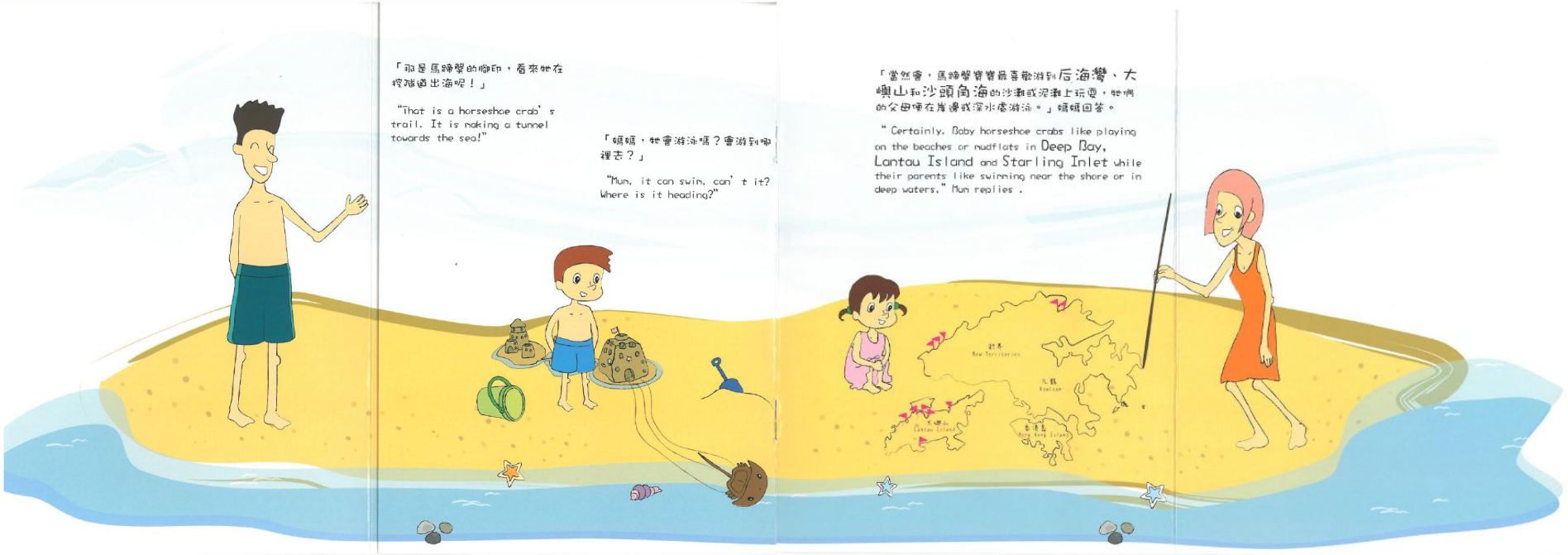
"That is a horseshoe crab's trail. It is making a tunnel towards the sea!"

「媽媽，牠會游泳嗎？會游到哪裡去？」

"Mum, it can swim, can't it? Where is it heading?"

「當然會，馬蹄蟹寶寶最喜歡游到后海灣、大嶼山和沙頭角海的沙灘或泥灘上玩耍，牠們的父母便在岸邊或深水處游泳。」媽媽回答。

" Certainly. Baby horseshoe crabs like playing on the beaches or mudflats in Deep Bay, Lantau Island and Starling Inlet while their parents like swimming near the shore or in deep waters," Mum replies .



「那麼，剛才跟我們玩耍的是馬蹄蟹寶寶嗎？很細小啊！」兩妹兩人異口同聲地說。

"So, we just played with a baby horseshoe crab? It is so small!" the children chorus.

「牠們剛出生時體型很小，要長大便要...」媽媽看著半透明的蟹卵，在裏面不斷滾動的蟹寶寶真是可愛。

"They are tiny when they are born. In order to grow, they have to ..." Mun looks at the eggs. The embryos rolling inside look cute.

「馬蹄蟹寶寶的爸媽都不在，牠們很危險啊！」馬莉感嘆地說。

"It is dangerous for baby horseshoe crabs to stay here without their parents," Mary sighs.

成年時，馬蹄蟹會在漲潮時爬上沙灘產卵，很多人會在此時捕捉牠們。

When they are mature enough, they will lay eggs on the beach during high tide. People like to catch them at that time.

「是的，有些人會捕蟹來吃，加上環境污染日益嚴重，近年來馬蹄蟹數目不斷下降…」媽媽回答。

"Right. Some people might catch them for food. Together with the pollution problems, the number of horseshoe crabs has been decreasing in recent years," Mun responses.

「我們可以怎樣保護牠們呢？」馬高心急地問。

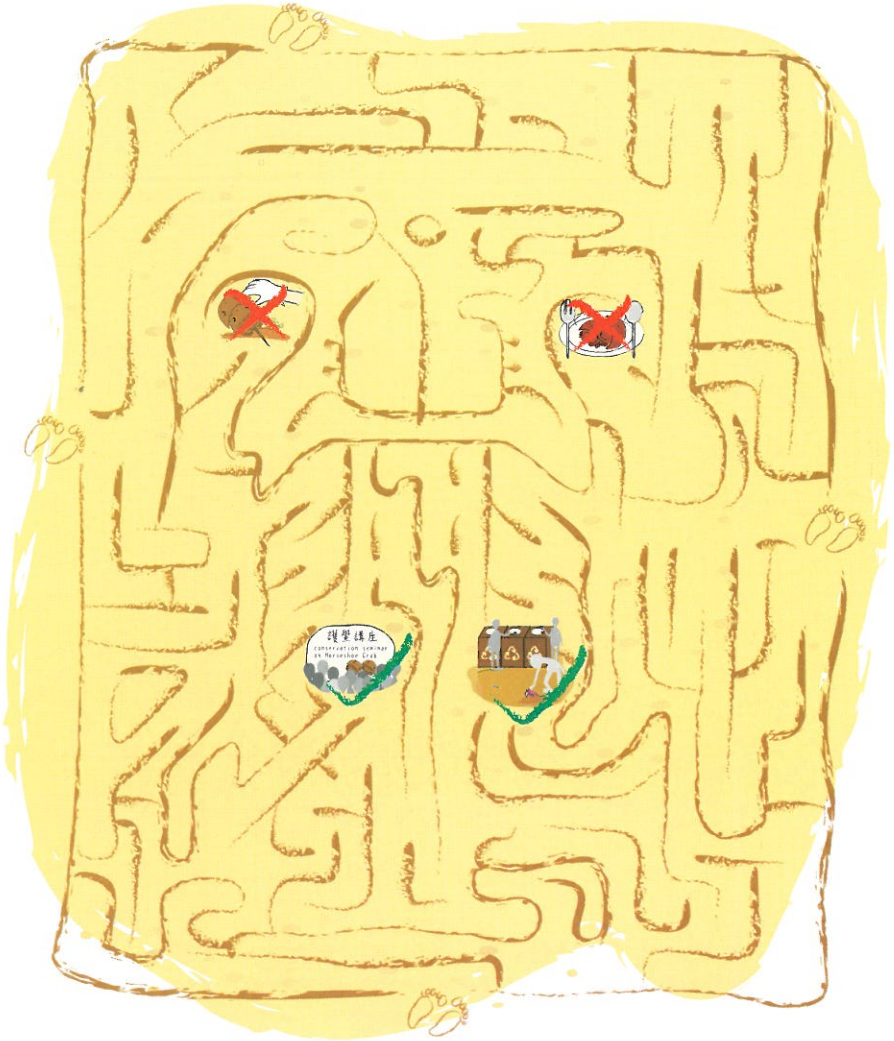
"How can we protect them?" Marco eagers to know.

「我們不要購買和吃牠們，減少污染海洋和沙灘。其實只要每個人出一分力便可以挽救到無數珍貴的活化石，讓另一個三億年後，人類的小孩仍可與馬蹄蟹相約在沙灘上。」

"We should not buy or eat them, and should avoid polluting the sea and beaches. If everyone can make some efforts in conserving these living fossils, our children can still see them again 300 million years later. It depends on us."

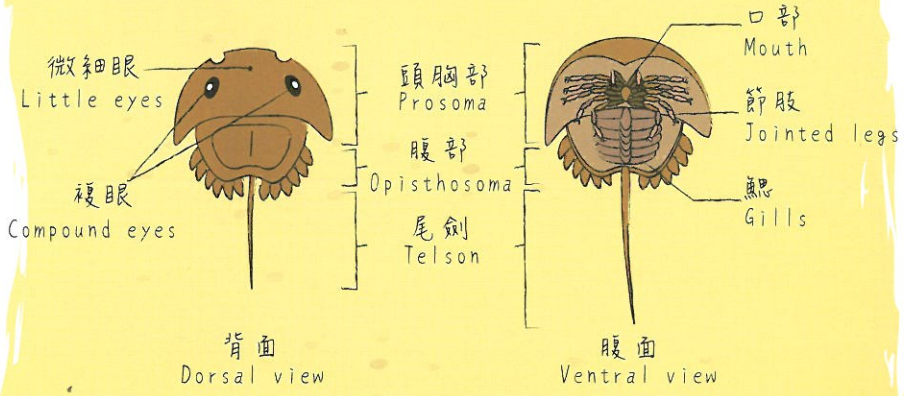
馬蹄蟹數量大減，請大家深入迷宮找出保護馬蹄蟹的方法，讓這些活化石能與我們相約三億年後！

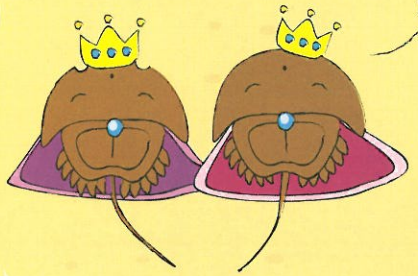
The population of horseshoe crabs has dropped dramatically. Let's find out ways to protect this "living fossil" inside the maze so that we can see them 300 million years later!



馬蹄蟹小知識：

Horseshoe Crab Fun Facts：





我們的血是藍色的！
Our blood is blue!

保護馬蹄蟹
與牠們相約三億年後

Let's protect horseshoe crabs and see them 300 million years later

請瀏覽以下網址查閱更多有關馬蹄蟹的資料：
For more details about horseshoe crabs, please visit:
www.afcd.gov.hk

故事及繪圖：Janet Y. Kwok
Story and Illustration: Janet Y. Kwok