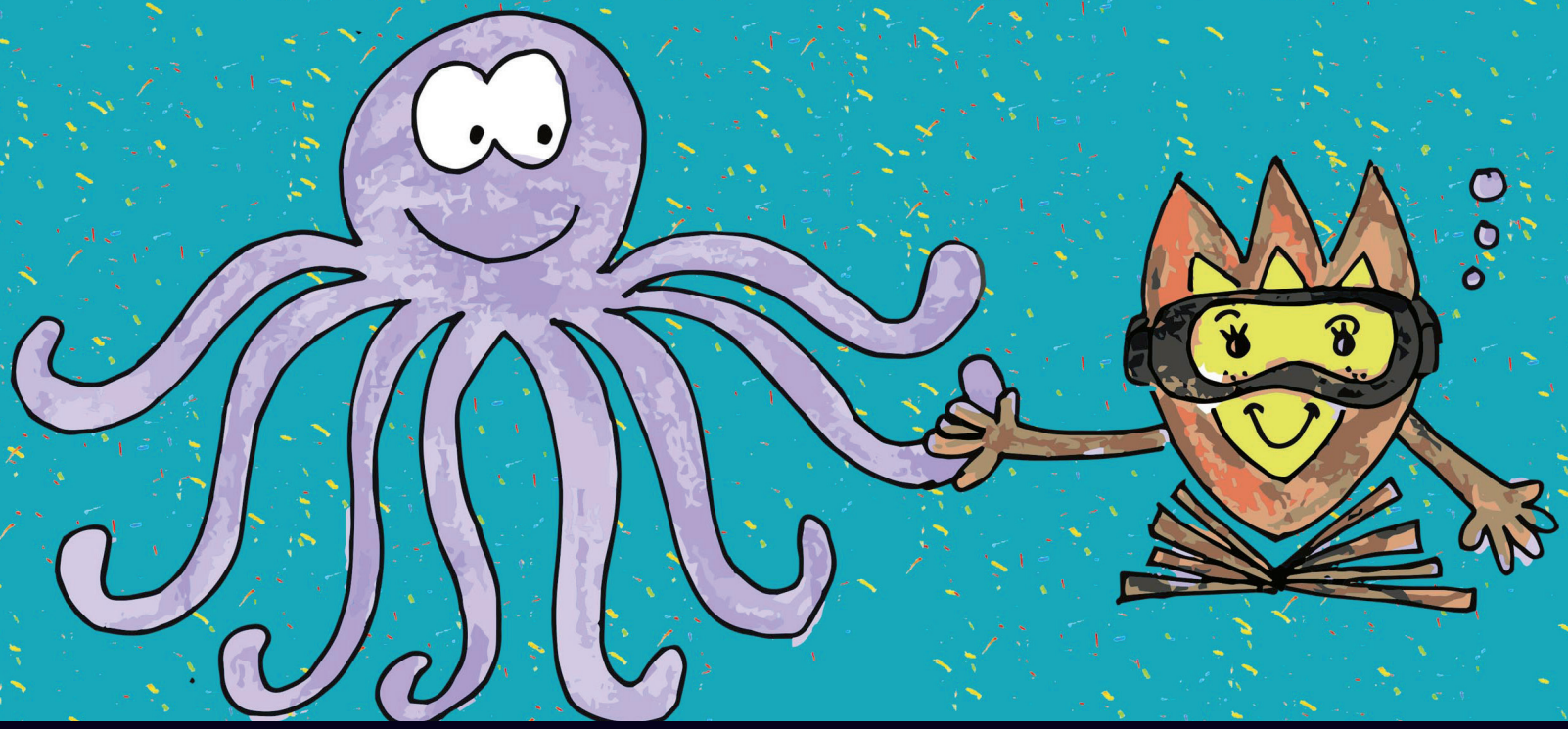
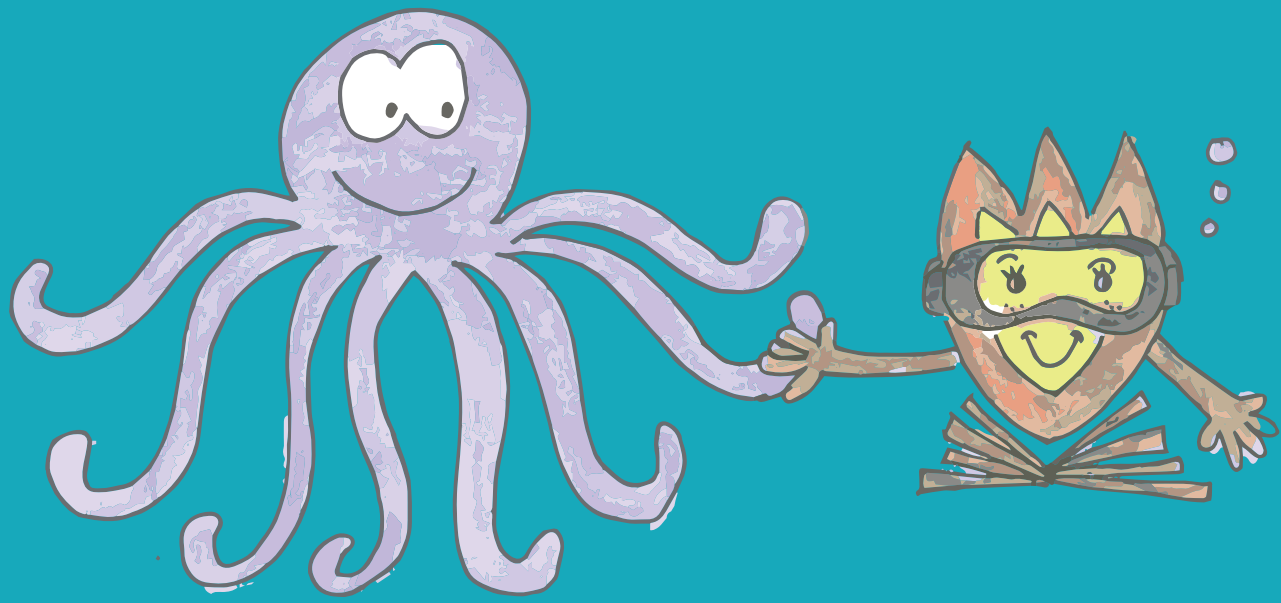
MARQ

"Un hospital de cuento" Project



Polpet and Chispita discover Underwater Archaeology IV

Polpet and Chispita discover Underwater Archaeology



"POLPET DISCOVERS UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY" is a new story within the projects that the MARQ Foundation carries out to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of children hospitalized in the Pediatrics Service of the General University Hospital of Alicante. Unlike Chispita, that "little flame of fire" a curious and explorer who travels through time and has already been the protagonist of three stories, Polpet is an octopus-archaeologist, a privileged spectator of the seabed, which explains, in an entertaining way and teaching, the basic principles of Underwater Archaeology.

Polpet is the result of the Specific Collaboration Agreement between our MARQ Foundation and the University of Alicante, which has allowed the realization of training practices in the Didactic and Accessibility Unit of the CV MARQ Foundation of students of the Master in Tourist Guide and Interpretation of Heritage. This formative vocation of the Foundation allows young university students to acquire professional experience in a place as exciting as the MARQ.

It is an opportunity to put into practice their academic training in an environment where Heritage is their main element allowing them to apply in a real context the knowledge acquired at the University.

To finish, I would like to express my congratulations for this work to the students Mireya Gomis Llorens, Elena Micó García-Tapia and Helena García-Tapia Poveda (author of the drawings). They have contributed with their imagination and knowledge. We also want to congratulate the Foundation MARQ by its initiative and enthusiasm, above all, to the members of his Didactic Team. I encourage you to discover this new friend of Chispita who has so much to teach us about the "Archaeology of the deep".

Júlia Parra Aparicio
Vice-President of the CV-MARQ Foundation and the Alicante Council.
Representative of Culture.

Archaeologists are the detectives of Antiquity. And there are different types of detectives, depending on the subject they investigate. Among them we find those who are dedicated to the study of deposits, objects, human remains and landscapes that are under water, specialty that is known as UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY.

And two wonderful characters come to tell us what the work of these underwater archaeologists is. One of them lives in the sea and is called Polpet: it is a nice octopus that knows everything about what happens at the bottom of the sea. The other lives on Earth and it is called Chispita: it is a flame that illuminates history and stories, and that we have known before in other educational projects. Do you remember the stories "Chispita travels to Prehistory", "Chispita travels to the Iberian era" and "Chispita travels to the Mayan world"?

Well, this wonderful meeting between Polpet and Chispita, already friendly pets, is thanks to the Archaeological Museum of Alicante (MARQ), which since the school year 2014-15, visits the children hospitalized in the Pediatrics Service of the General University Hospital

of Alicante with the teaching project "A story hospital". And in this case we have had the collaboration of students of the Master in Tourist Guide and Interpretation of Heritage of the University of Alicante to give us this gift that is "Polpet and Chispita discover Underwater Archaeology".

Oscar Wilde said that "anyone can make history, but only a great man can write it"" And the MARQ have been writing history in the hearts of children hospitalized in our Pediatric Service for years with your teaching work by our side, these stories and these pets.
Long live Polpet and Chispita!

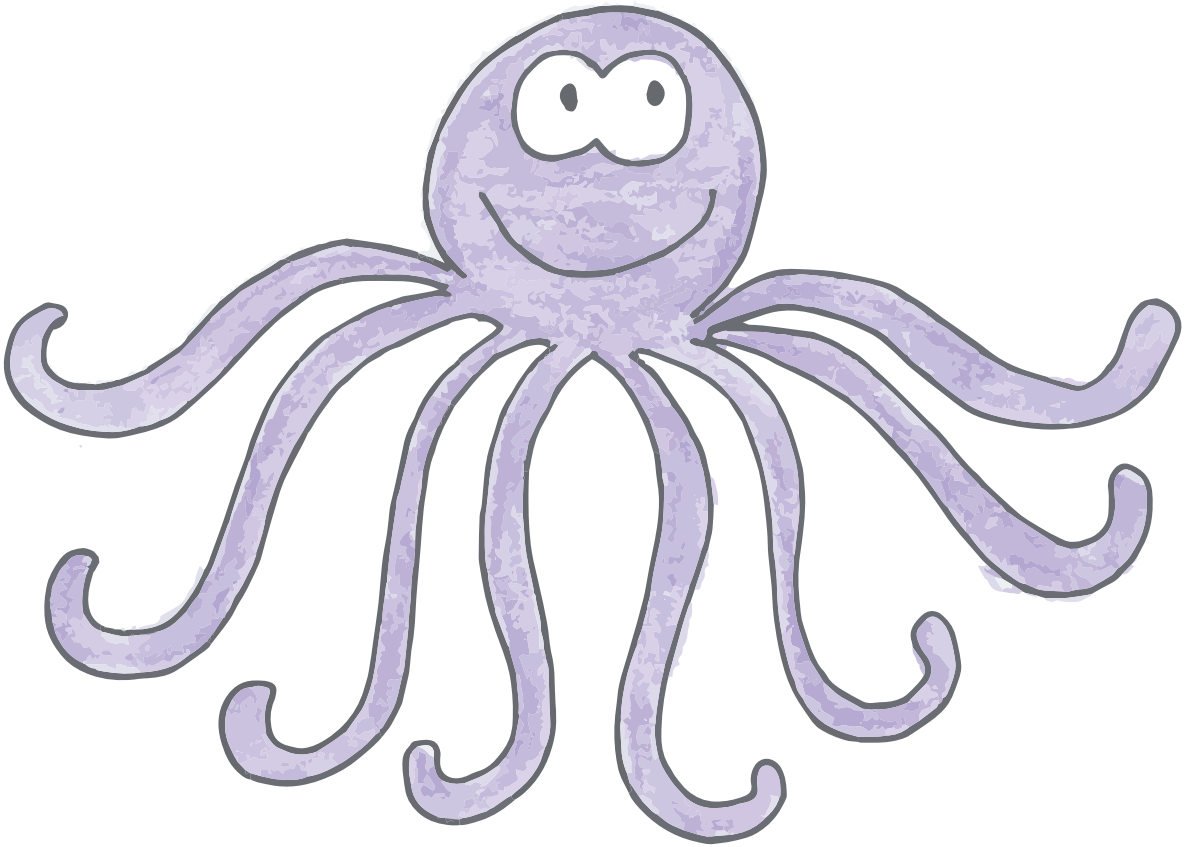
Javier González de Dios
Head of Pediatrics Service
General University Hospital of Alicante

Hello Earth friend! My name is Polpet. I'm sure you know my friend Chispita, she has told me the trips you have made to Prehistory and that you have met the Iberians, but this time she cannot accompany us because we are going to get into the sea to explain Underwater Archaeology and she and the water do not get along very along. So, she has commissioned me to accompany you.

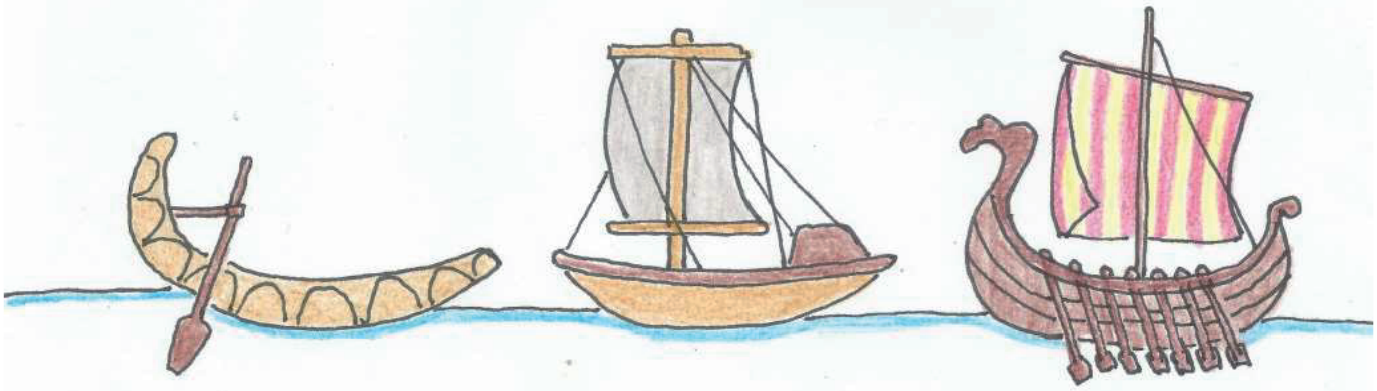
I come from a family of archaeologists and there is no one better than me to tell you all the secrets that the sea hides.

Are you coming? But first, you have to prepare yourself with the neoprene, the fins, the tube and, above all, you have to say the magic words:

"GLUP-GLUP"



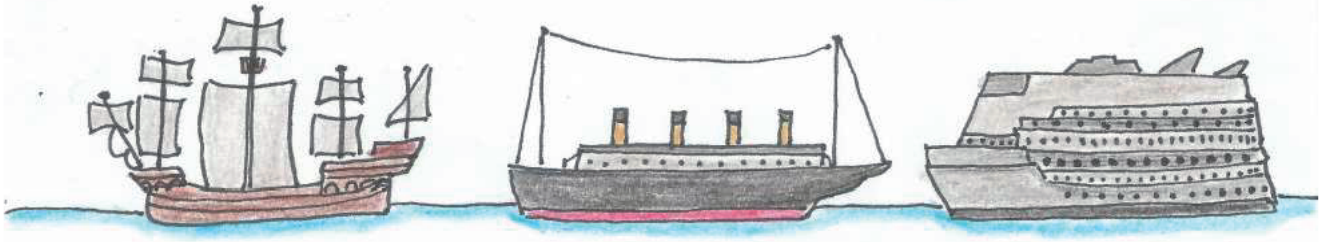
The sea and rivers have been the basis for the development and growth of your most ancient cities and civilizations. They used the ships to travel, sail, fish, war... Many of these ships ended up at the seabed by attacks, accidents or, even, earthquakes.



PREHISTORIC CANOE ROMAN SHIP VIKING DRAKKAR

Underwater archaeology is responsible for studying and preserving these marine sites that are part of history. The bottom of the Seas is full of these deposits, any ship carries inside a very rich record of the society to which it belonged: artillery, amphorae...

And some beings, whom I think you call "underwater archaeologists" are the ones who are in charge of studying all this. These beings first study archaeology and then get the official title of "scientific diving".



CARAVEL STEAMSHIP CRUISE

HISTORY OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

Throughout history, I have seen these beings plunge into the sea, but they were changing their appearance as time went on.

They were tied to stones!

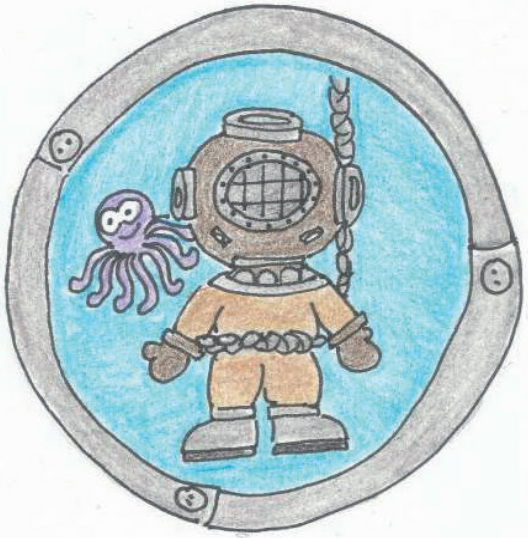
There were men inside the bells!

The first ones I saw swimming around my house were the Roman *urinatore*.

It took many years for me to see some bells falling to the seabed, the Renaissance dipping bells.

In 1837, these beings appeared in the first diving suits.

Will they be underwater astronauts?
Have you come to discover my house?



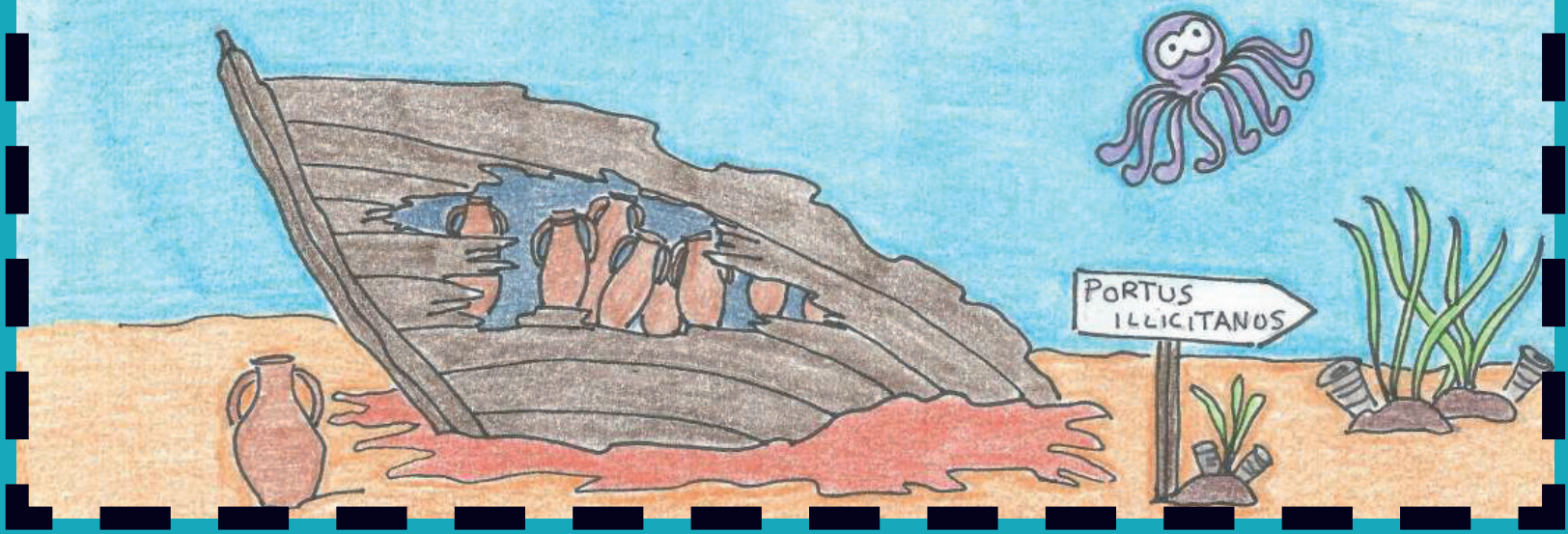
You look more and more like me!

But it wasn't until World War II that Frenchman Cousteau discovered the self-contained compressed air bottles and regulators that allowed humans to breathe underwater.

THE FLOTSAM

I'll tell you how I found my first flotsam. That day I got up wanting to swim and, after flapping for a long time, I saw something giant. When I approached, I saw that it was a shipwreck.

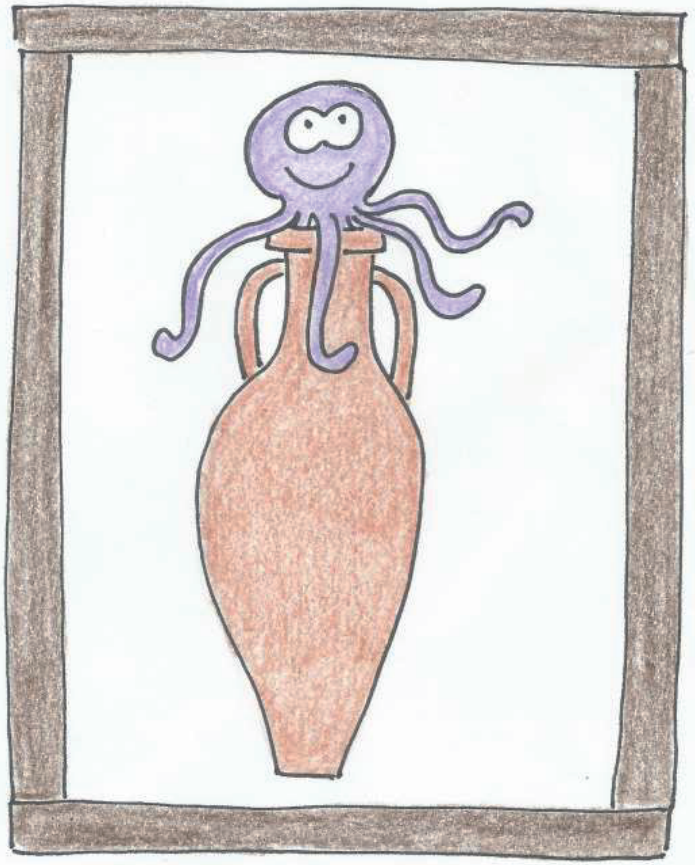
It was a large Roman ship that sank in the 5th century AD. I found it near the Portus Ilicitanus, where Santa Pola is located today. This boat is manned by only two people. While one slept, the other managed the ship

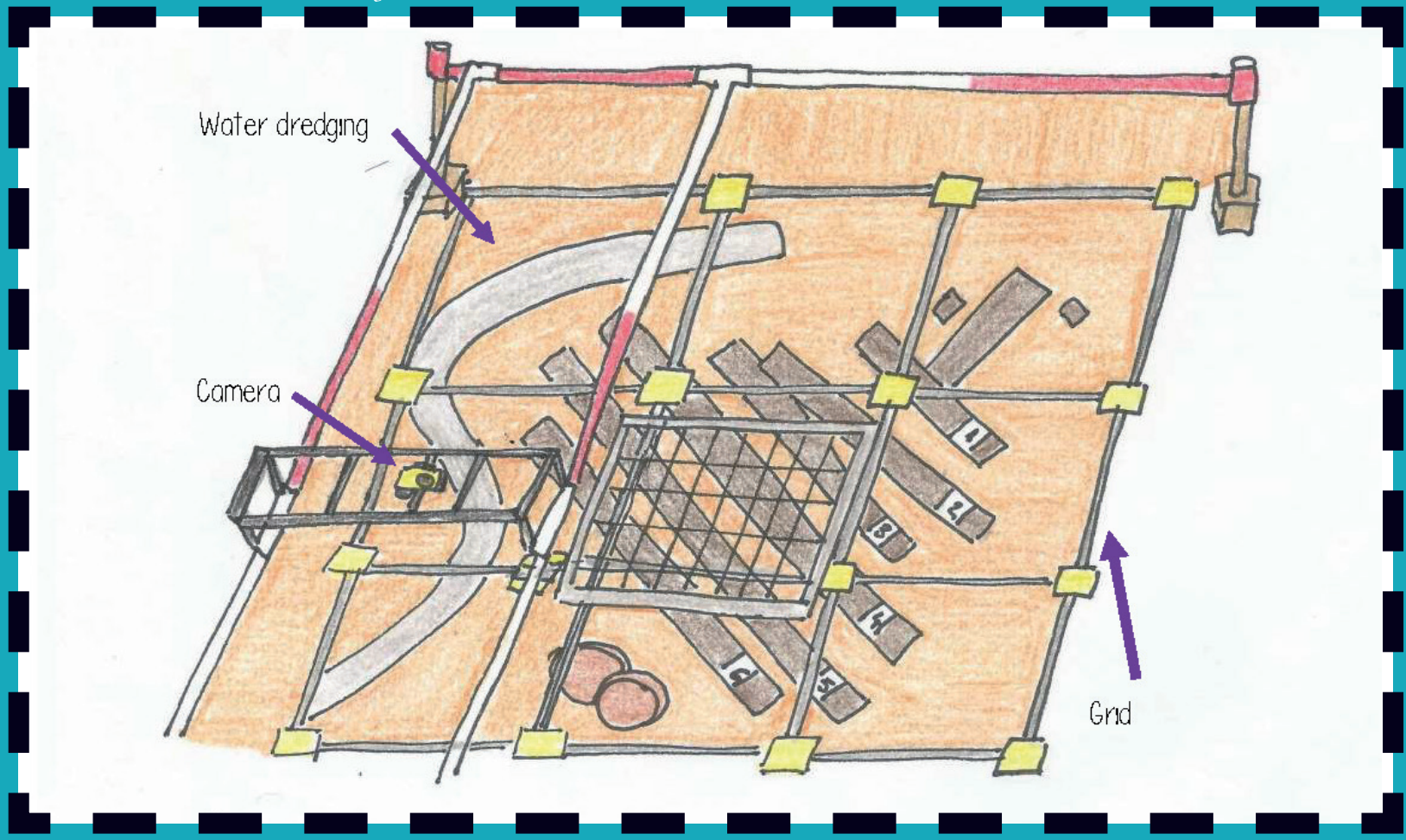


But the boat was full of objects that I had never seen in my life as a little fish. Those objects are called "amphorae".

I was amazed at what I had found and I couldn't stand my curiosity. So, I got into one of those amphora that the Roman's used to transport food or drink, and I found that the amphorae of this ship were full of oil and wine.

Its shape is very striking. It has two handles and a pointed foot to facilitate the organization of cargo on the boats.




Water dredging
Camera
Grid

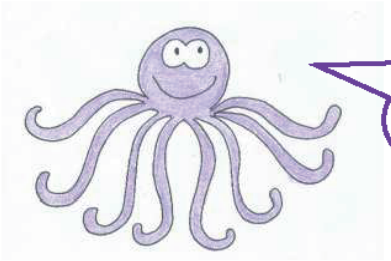
THE EQUIPMENT

Archaeologists use their diving equipment to be able to stay underwater while doing their job.

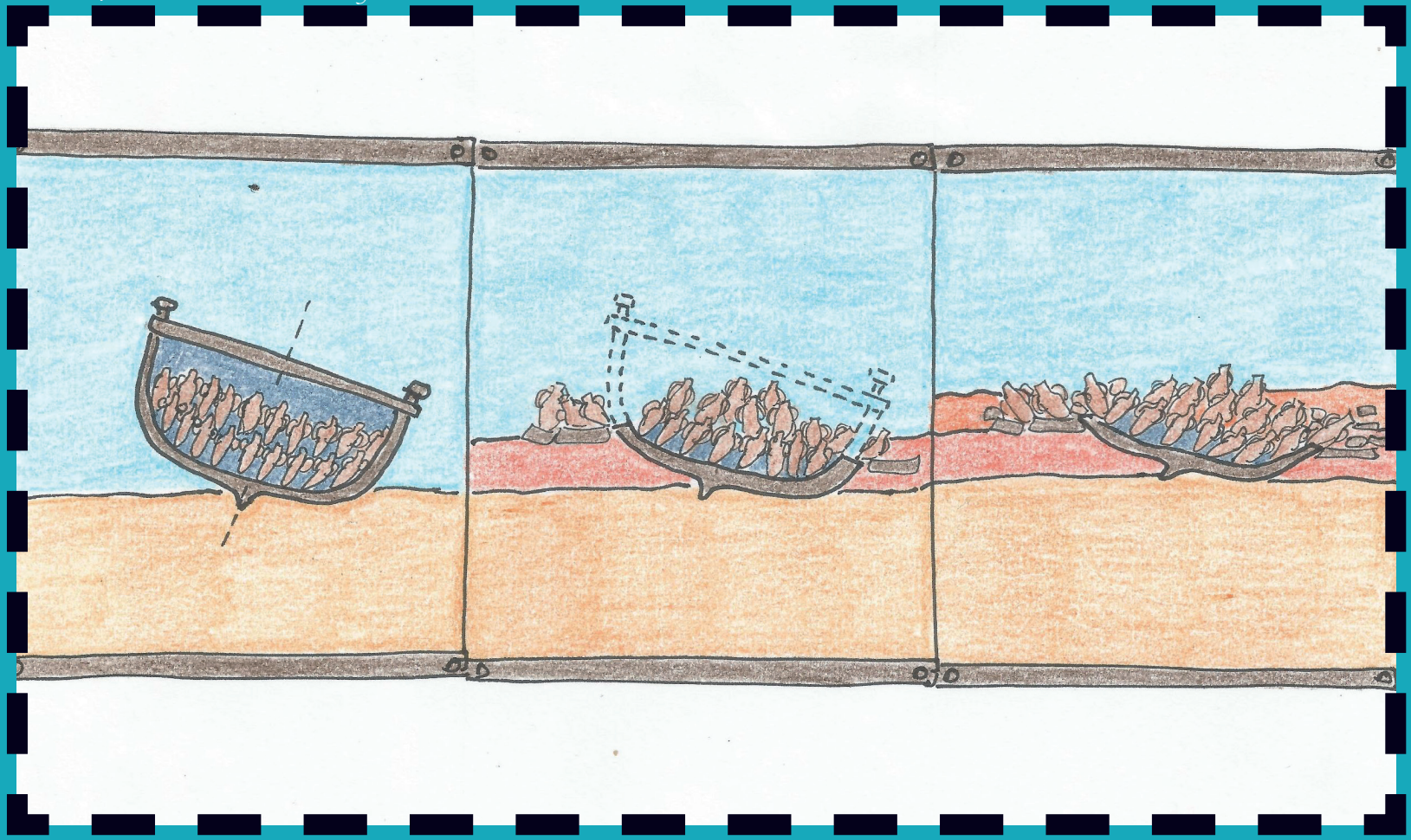
They also use sonar equipment to find out the depth at which the place they have to investigate is located. Thus, they can calculate the pressure to which they will be subjected while underwater.

They have to absorb all the sediment accumulated in the flotsam to be able to see better and clean the water. That's what they call dredging.

And, of course, you can never miss your camera equipped with waterproof covers and protective shields to prevent it from breaking and to improve vision underwater.



I always try to sneak in some of your photos, I'm a real influencer octopus!



DIFFERENCES WITH TERRESTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

I am going to tell you the differences archaeologists find between excavating in the land and excavating in the water. There are three main differences:

1. The aquatic environment, which does not mean that it is always under the sea, archaeological sites also appear in lakes, rivers, swamps…
2. The conservation of the materials. The water has better conservation conditions, allowing that after a while, the materials have been balanced and adapted to the environment.
3. Deterioration of the elements. They are very sensitive material that when you take them out of the water are damaged.

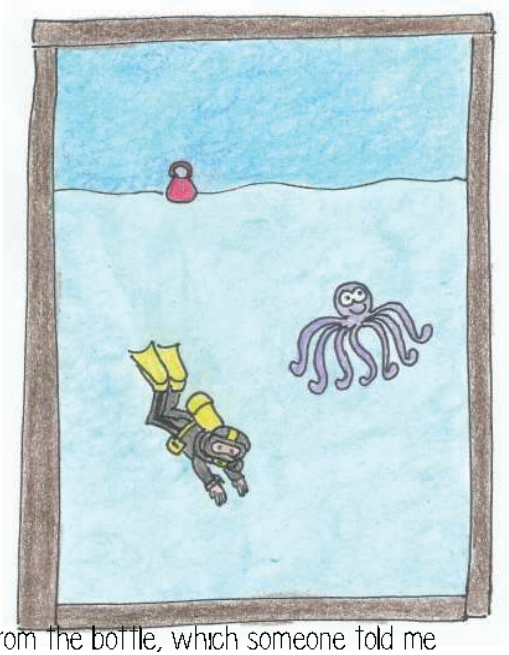
DIFFICULTIES

The work is not as easy as it seems because everything that is normal on land becomes something different underwater. But don't worry, you will get used to these conditions quickly.

The first thing you must remember is that when you dive you will experience a great pressure on your body, which will increase as there is more depth. You will have to bear the full weight of the water on you. This pressure will form nitrogen bubbles in your body. So, you have to return to the surface slowly in order to expel all these bubbles that your body does not need.

Your senses will also be modified. Your sight will be worse and you will not be able to see the things that are far away. The sounds and noises are scarce but the few ones you will

Don't spend too much time working underwater!



You cannot smell anything and you can only taste the oxygen from the bottle, which someone told me that it is very different from the outside air. Also, you will be able to taste the water that surrounds you which could be fresh or saltwater.

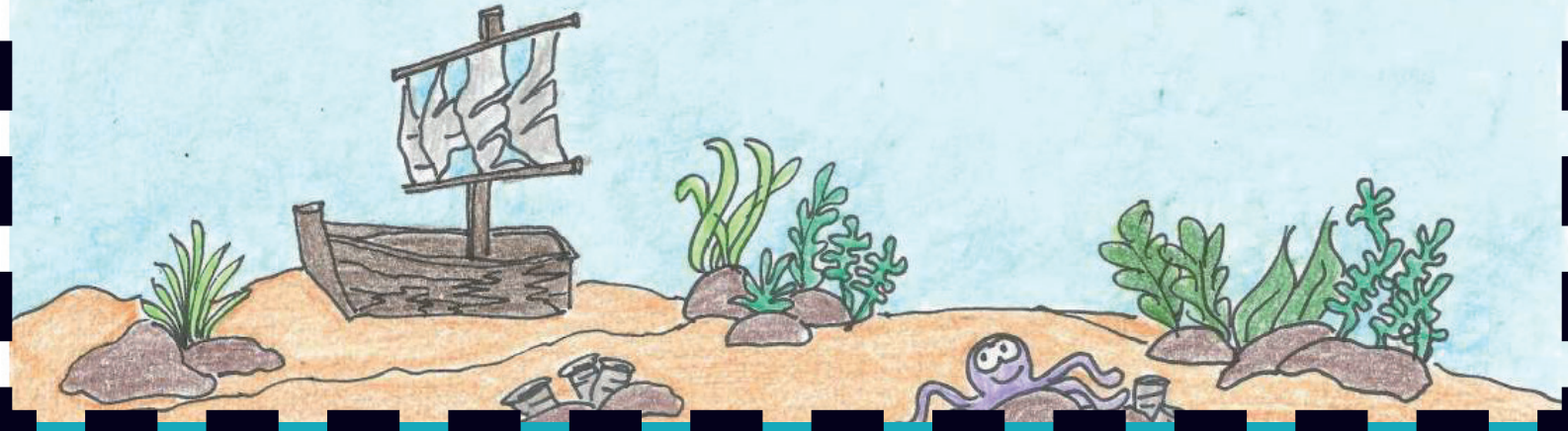
- Do you prefer fresh or salty? Without a doubt, I prefer saltwater

ADVANTAGES

But, underwater archaeology does not just have bad things.

Thanks to it humans have been able to know and study the maritime world and trade relations. But, also, study the ports and other submerged archaeological sites.

As you already know, water preserves materials better (I also take good care of them and I try not to touch anything). The most amazing thing is that the flotsams are kept as they were sunk. We, the archaeologist, call them "closed sets", that is, materials that are together but outside an archaeological context and that allows us to know the precise moment in which they were wrecked.



RESEARCH PROCESS

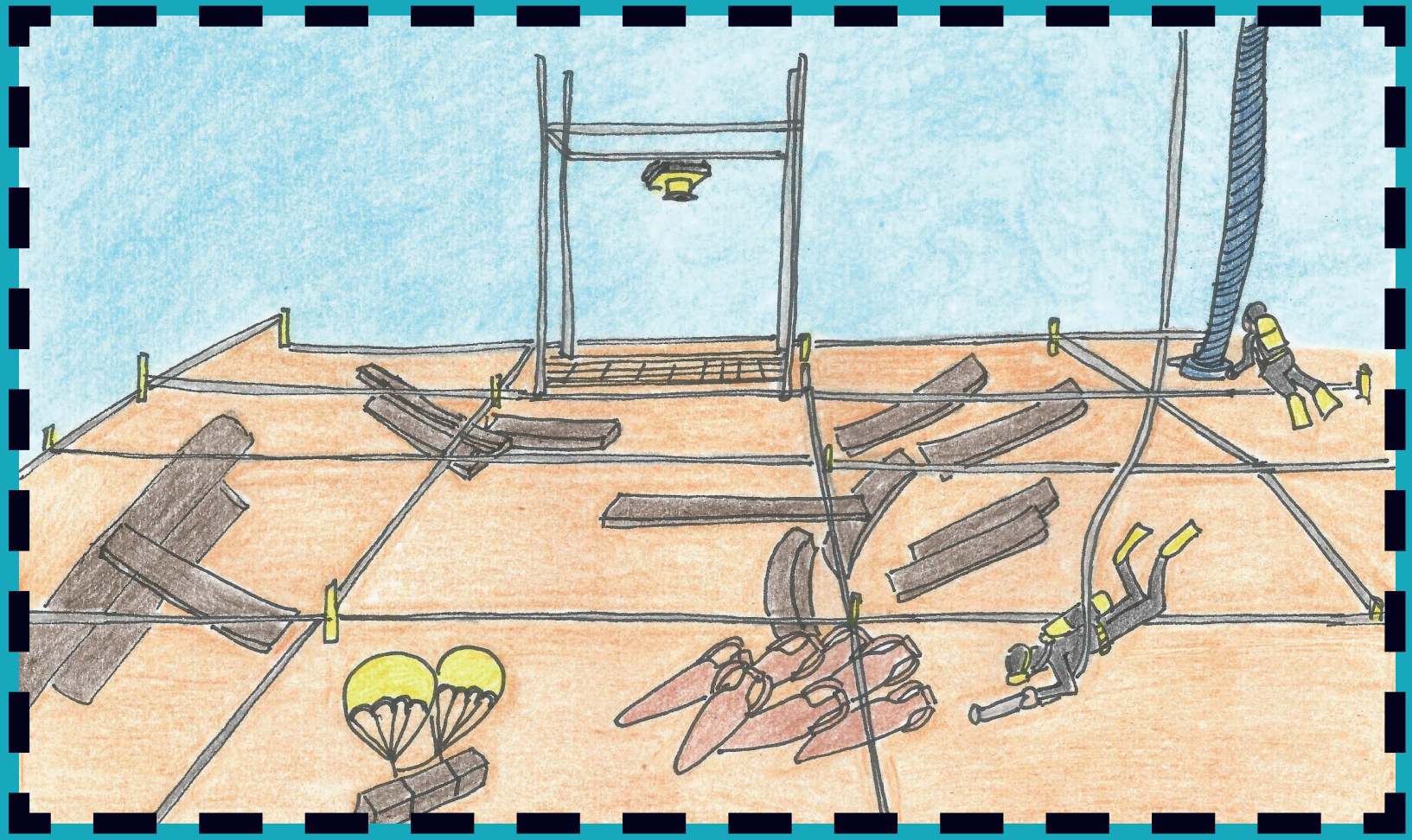
If you want to be a good archaeologist, you have to know the steps you have to follow when investigating any of your projects.

The first step is to document yourself a lot on the subject: you must read, see photographs, ask people... Nowadays, this is a very easy task because you can use the internet.

The next step is work planning. Please, be ordered!

Finally, the field work has arrived: you can dive into the sea. First, you will need to explore the place, that is, carry out a prospecting. You have to locate the site with your eyesight or you can use the help of the sonar

Do you remember all the equipment I explained to you before? Well, it's time to use it. You have to mark the exact site on the map, and point with a buoy on the surface in order to not het lost.



The method most used by archaeologists is to put a grid on the discoveries creating small squares.

- You, humans, are very square!

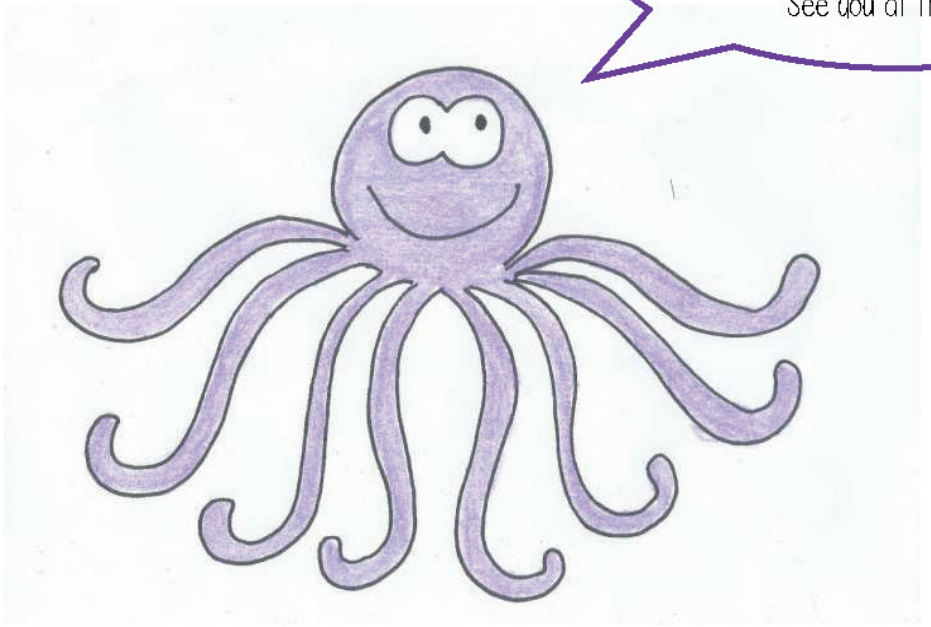
Surely, you will find the site covered by a layer of marine vegetation and soil that you must remove with the suction sleeve. Be careful! You don't want to take part of the site.

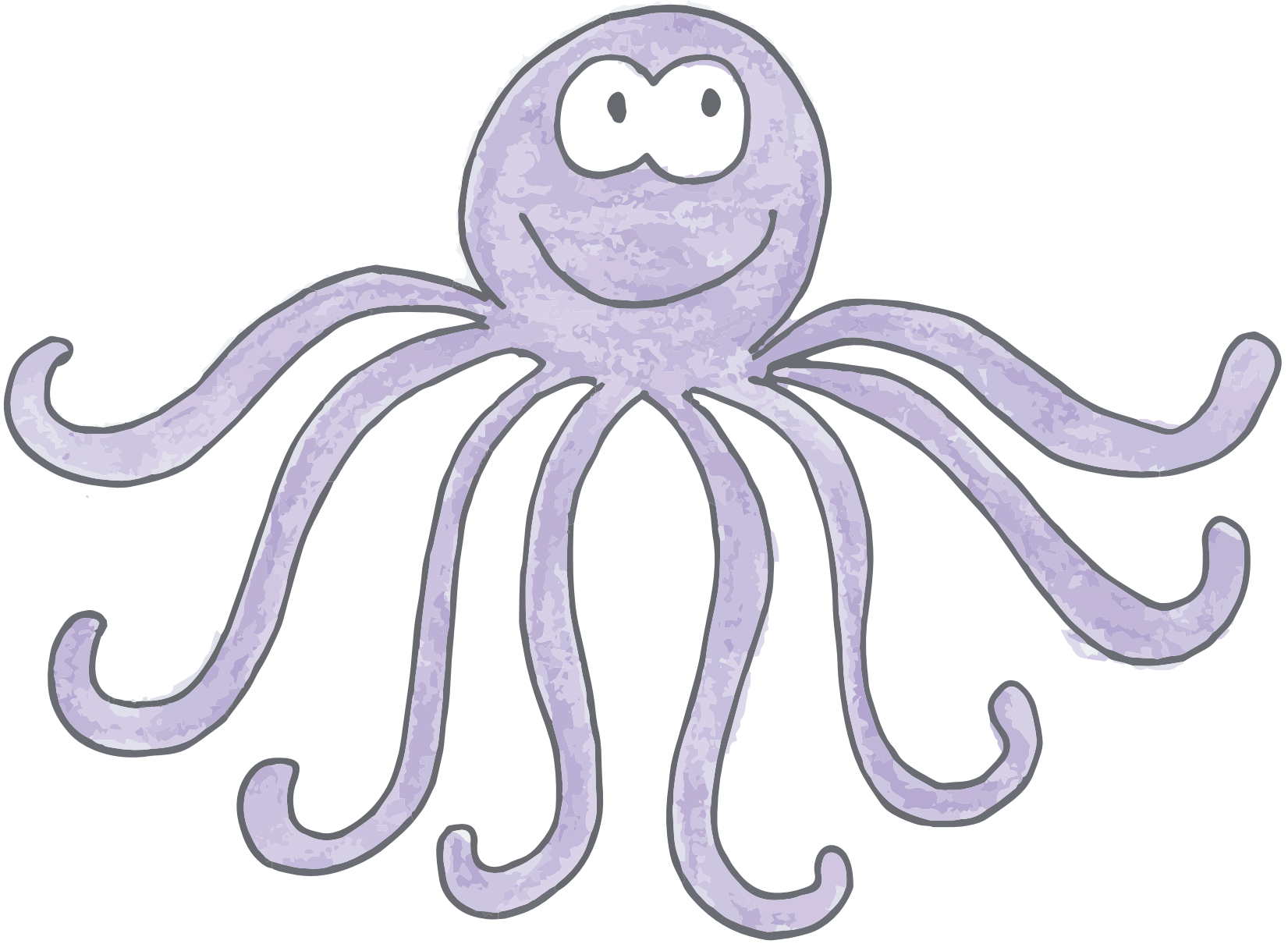
You should only extract something when it is in danger, otherwise I recommend you to leave it as you have found it. Remember that you must document the site with the method you prefer: make a drawing, an underwater photograph or a video.

When you already have all the materials documented, sort and classify them. Make a sheet of each material with all its data to be able to study and classify them. This will also help you to study the archaeological site you have found and compare it with those on land.

I hope that you have learnt many things to be a good underwater archaeologist.

See you at the seal

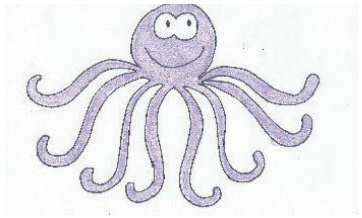


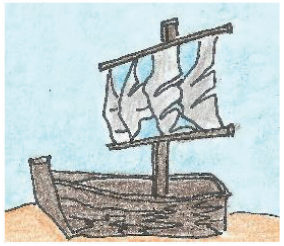


ACTIVITIES

We propose you some very fun activities to check that you know more about Underwater archaeology.
And that is not at all, at the end of the story you will see a QR where you can make aworkshop to make your own amphora.

Link the images with their names in Spanish and English





Pecio

Amphora

Ánfora

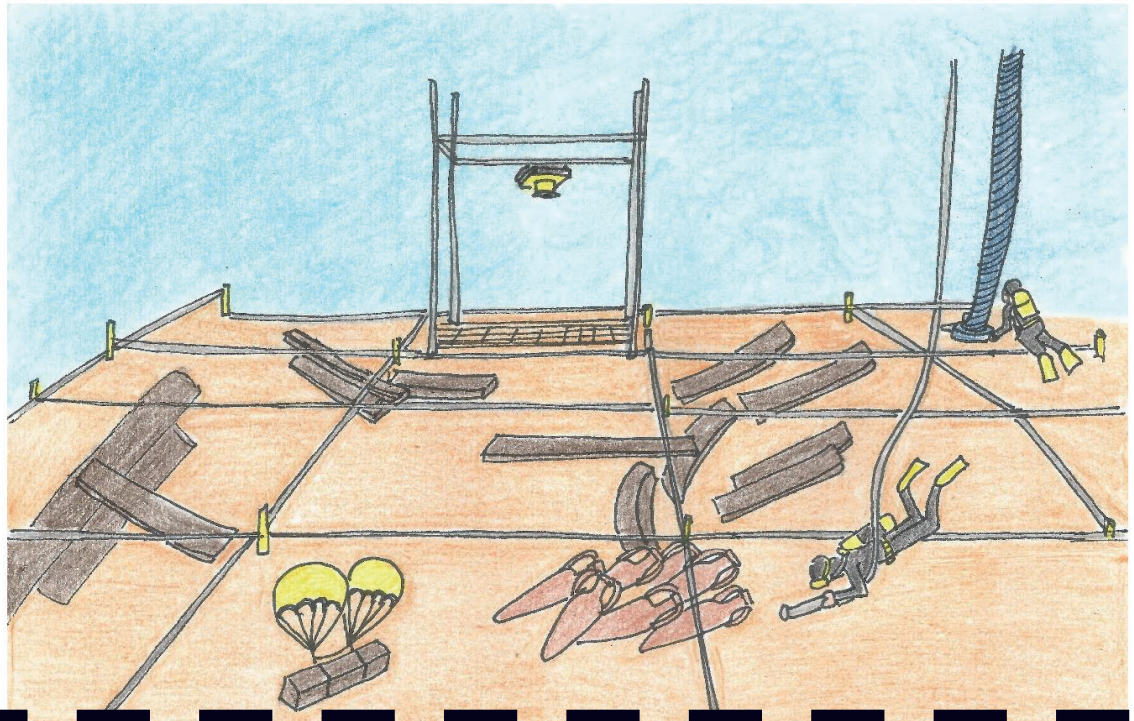
Fish

Pez

Flotsam

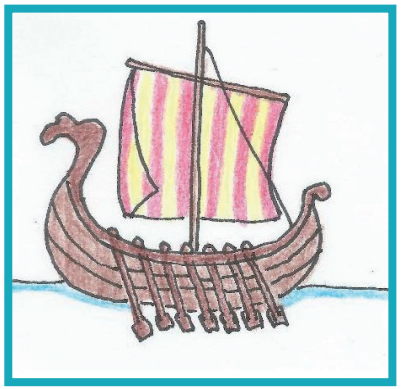
Surround the different objects that make up the excavation equipment

- Diving equipment
- Water dredging and airborne
- Camera

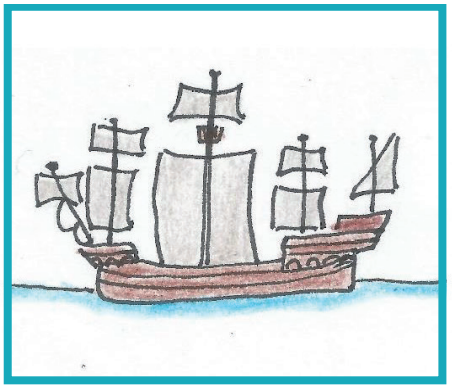


Differentiate which of the following vessels is a Roman ship

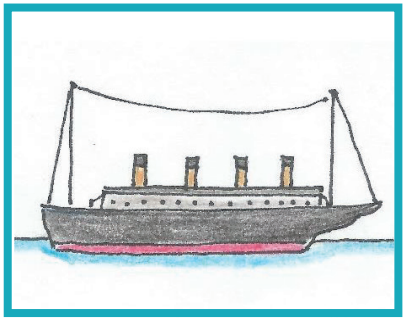
A)



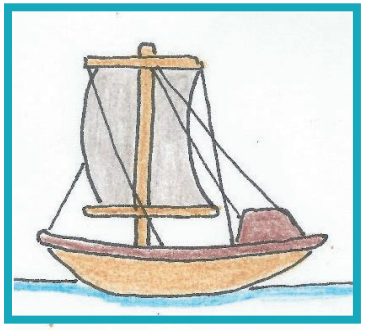
B)



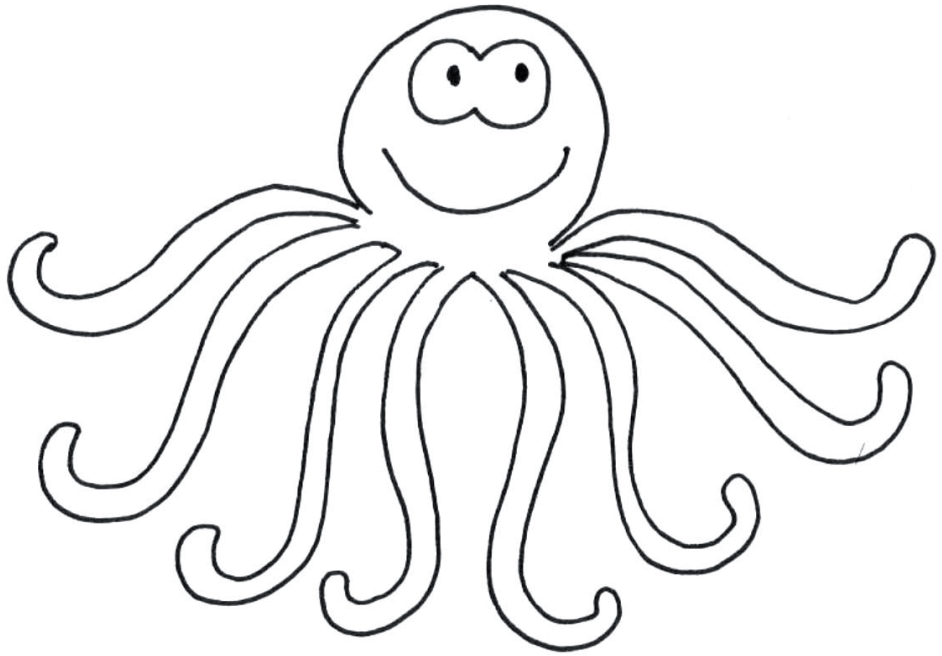
C)



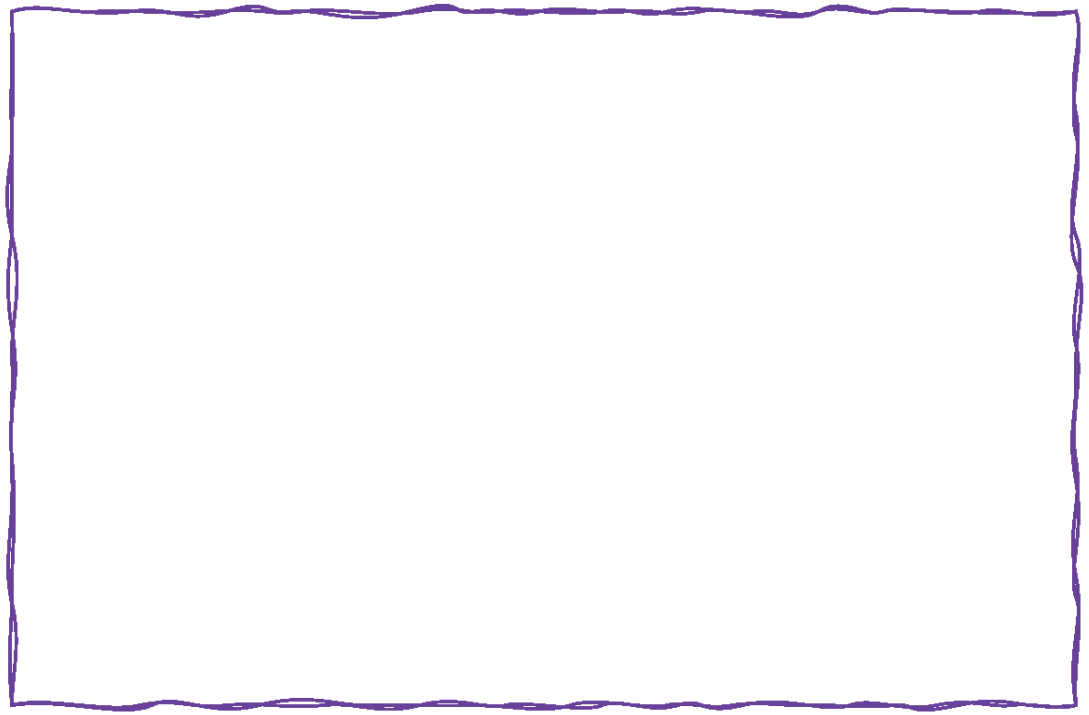
D)



How do you imagine Polpet? Colour It



Document the material: Make a drawing or a photo of an amphora



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Amphora: tall and narrow pitcher, long neck, with two handles and a pointed foot. It was very used by the ancient Greeks and Romans.
- Archaeology: science that studies the arts, monuments and objects of antiquity, especially through their remains.
- Closed set: archaeological materials found together outside archaeological context.
- Flotsam: piece or fragment of the ship that has been wrecked
- Prospecting: exploration of the land to discover the existence of archaeological sites.
- Reticle: set of lines or elements arranged in the form of a network.
- Subaquatic/Underwater: something that exists, is used or is performed underwater.

CREDIT

MANAGING DIRECTOR C. V. MARQ FOUNDATION:
Josep Albert Cortes i Garrido

DIRECTOR MARQ:
Manuel H. Olcina Doménech

TECHNICAL SUPERVISION:
Rafael Azúar Ruiz

PROJECT COORDINATION: DIDACTICS AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE C. V. MARQ
Gema Sala Pérez

COLLABORATION
Pediatrics Service of the General University Hospital of Alicante Hospital Pedagogical Unit of the General University Hospital of Alicante

WORD PROCESSING:
Students in internships of the Master in Tourist Guide and Interpretation of Heritage of the University of Alicante in the Foundation of the C. V. MARQ Elena Mico García - Tapia Mireya Gomis Llorens

DRAWINGS:
Helena García Tapia Poveda

MASCOT CHISPITA CARTOONIST:
Lucía Guirado Bañón

DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE C. V. MARQ FOUNDATION:
Lorena Hernández Serrano

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