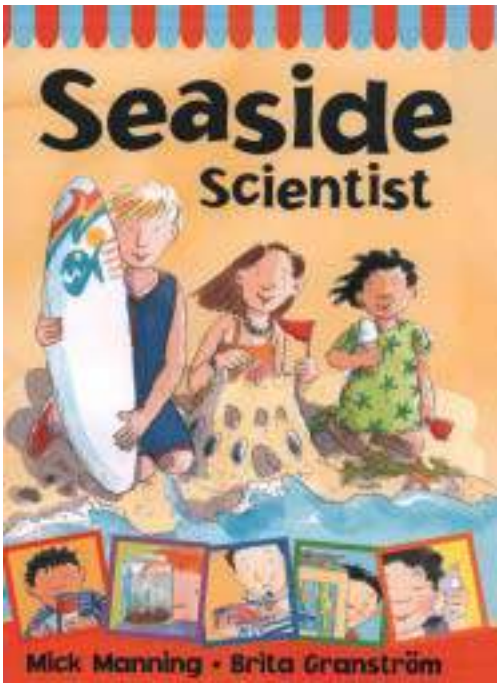
Seaside Scientist

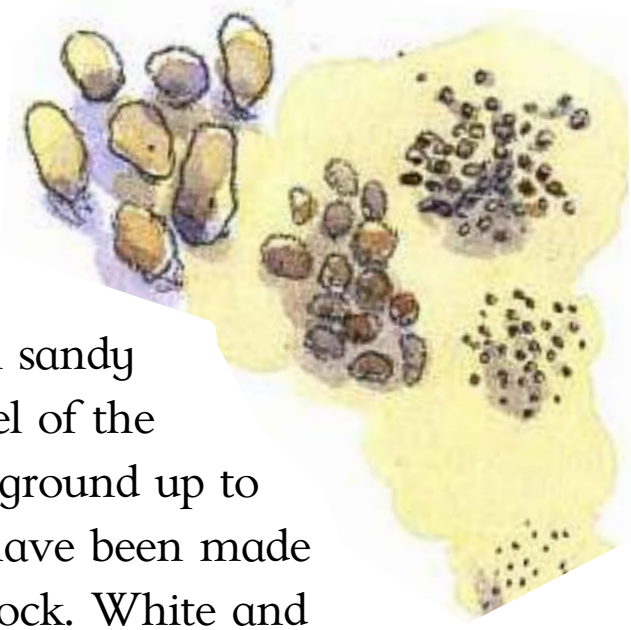
Pick up your bucket and spade - it's time to hit the beach! While you're there, why not have a go at these free fun activities, taken from *Seaside Scientist* by Mick Manning and Brita Granström. This information and activity book explores everything about the seaside - the beach, the dunes, the surf, the cliffs, the animals that live there and how people have made use of the seaside.



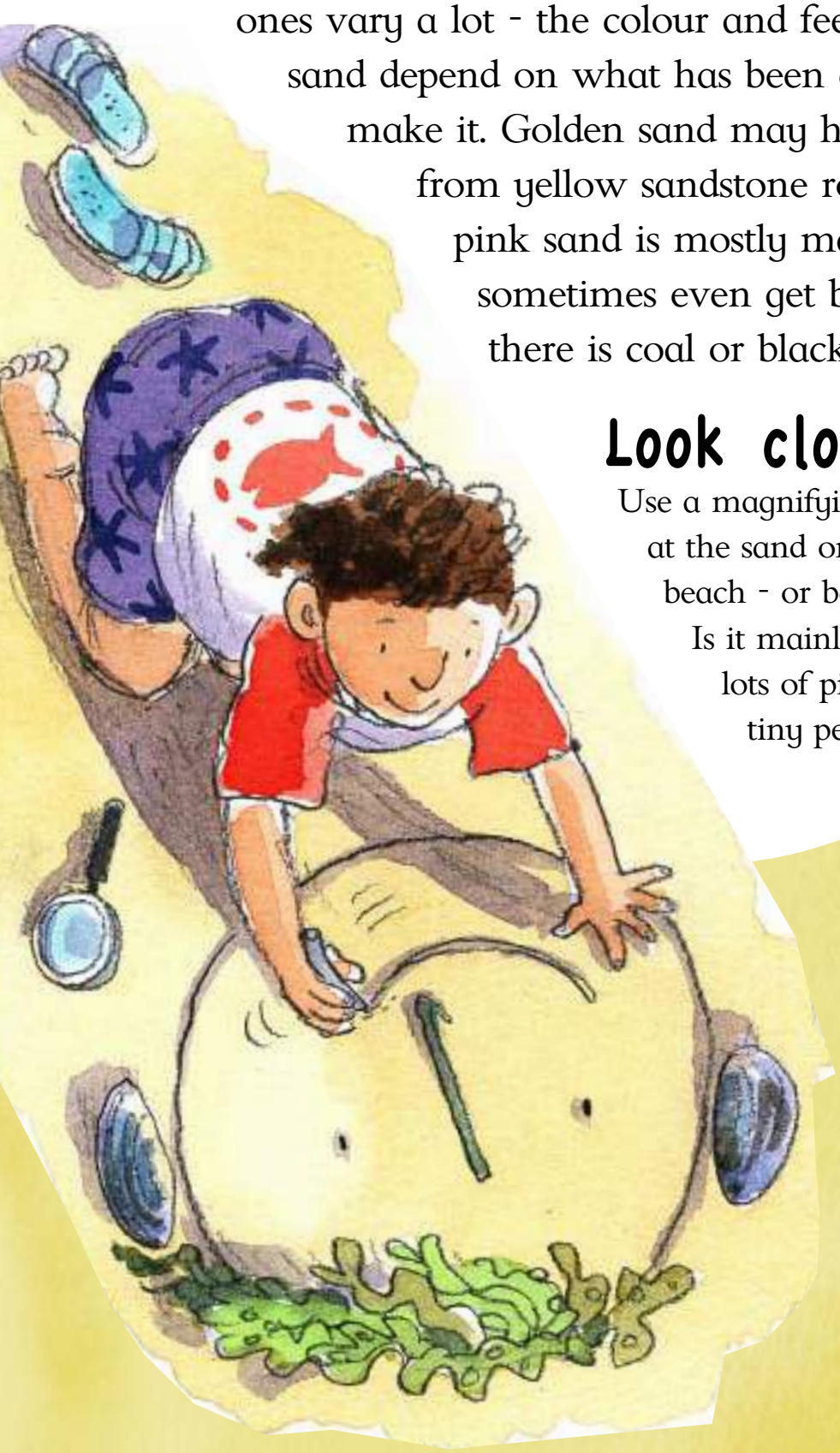


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On the beach



Every beach is different. Beaches can be sandy, muddy, shingly or pebbly. Even sandy ones vary a lot - the colour and feel of the sand depend on what has been ground up to make it. Golden sand may have been made from yellow sandstone rock. White and pink sand is mostly made from shells. You sometimes even get black sand - where there is coal or black volcanic rock around.



Look closer

Use a magnifying glass to take a closer look at the sand or shingle from your favourite beach - or beaches. What do you see? Is it mainly tiny grains? Or are there lots of pieces of broken shell and tiny pebbles?

Make a face

Draw a face in the sand and use shells, pebbles and seaweed to decorate it. Notice how the waves draw in the sand, too - they leave ripple shapes. Animals and birds also leave pictures on the beach - their paw and claw prints!

This photocopiable sheet is taken from *Seaside Scientist* by Mick Manning and Brita Granström published by Franklin Watts

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Sand painting

1 **Take a piece of heavy paper or card and paint an underwater picture. Let it dry.**

2 **Paint PVA glue across the bottom of the picture and sprinkle sand over it to create the seabed (if you haven't got any beach sand, use building sand or sand from a sandpit). You could also stick some pebbles on.**

3 **When the glue is dry, pin up your picture for everyone to admire.**

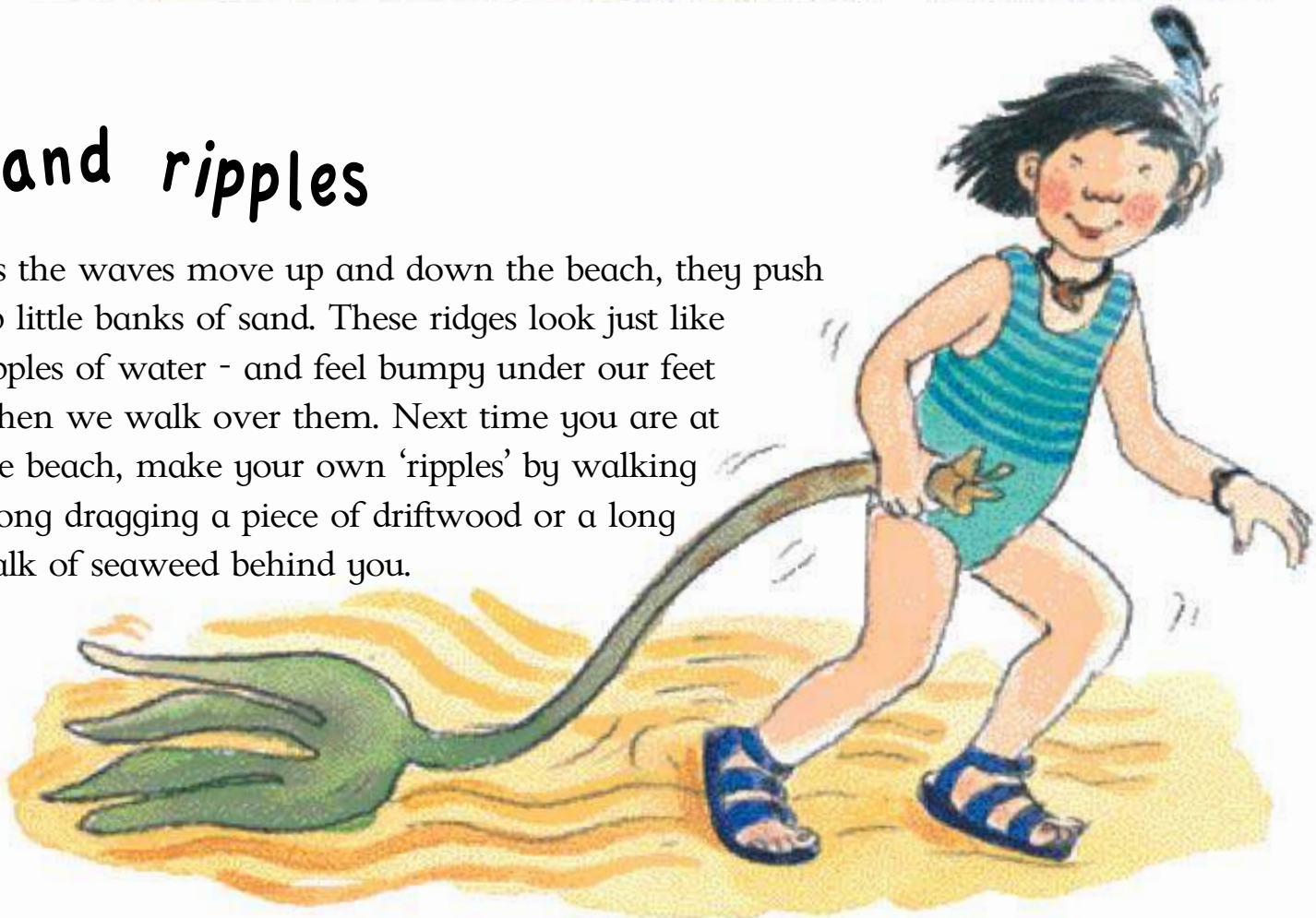
Sand isn't just good for building sandcastles. People mix it with other things to make bricks and mortar so they can build houses that last for hundreds of years.





Sand ripples

As the waves move up and down the beach, they push up little banks of sand. These ridges look just like ripples of water - and feel bumpy under our feet when we walk over them. Next time you are at the beach, make your own 'ripples' by walking along dragging a piece of driftwood or a long stalk of seaweed behind you.



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