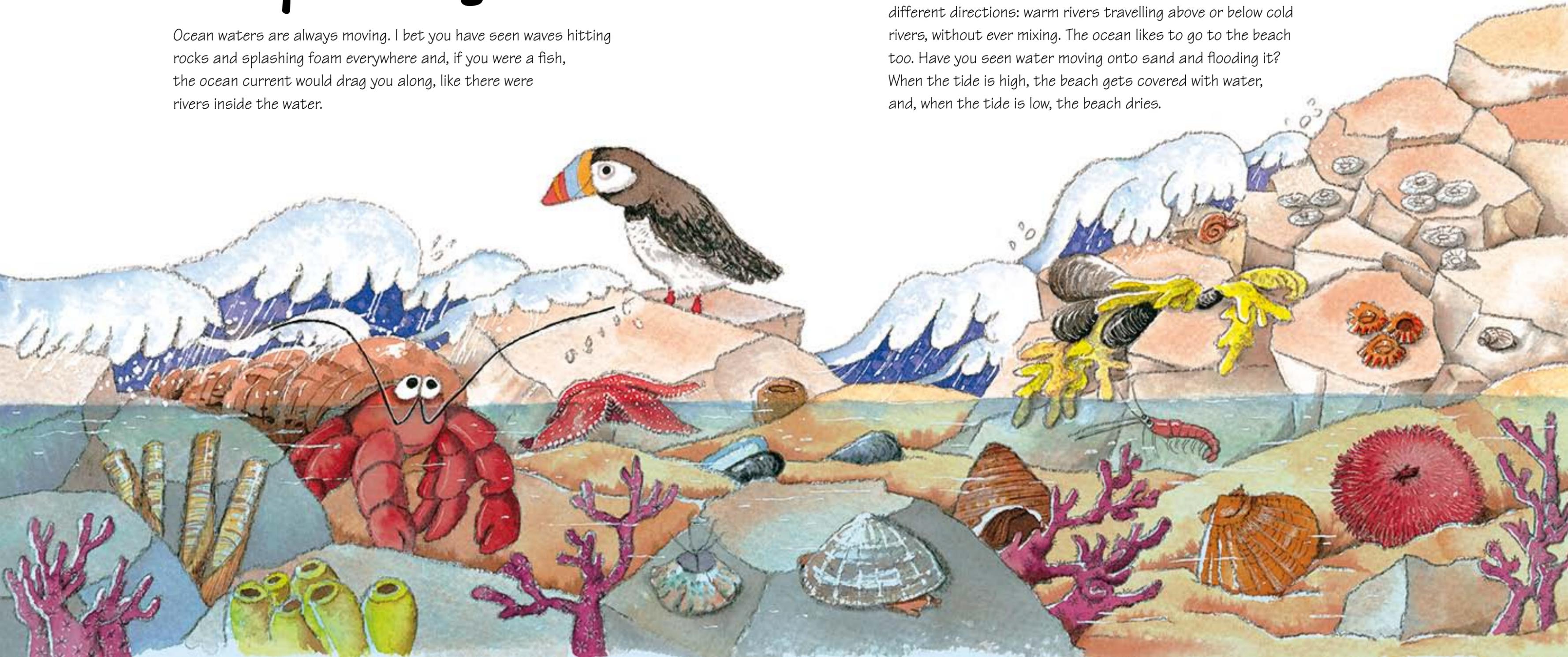


Always moving

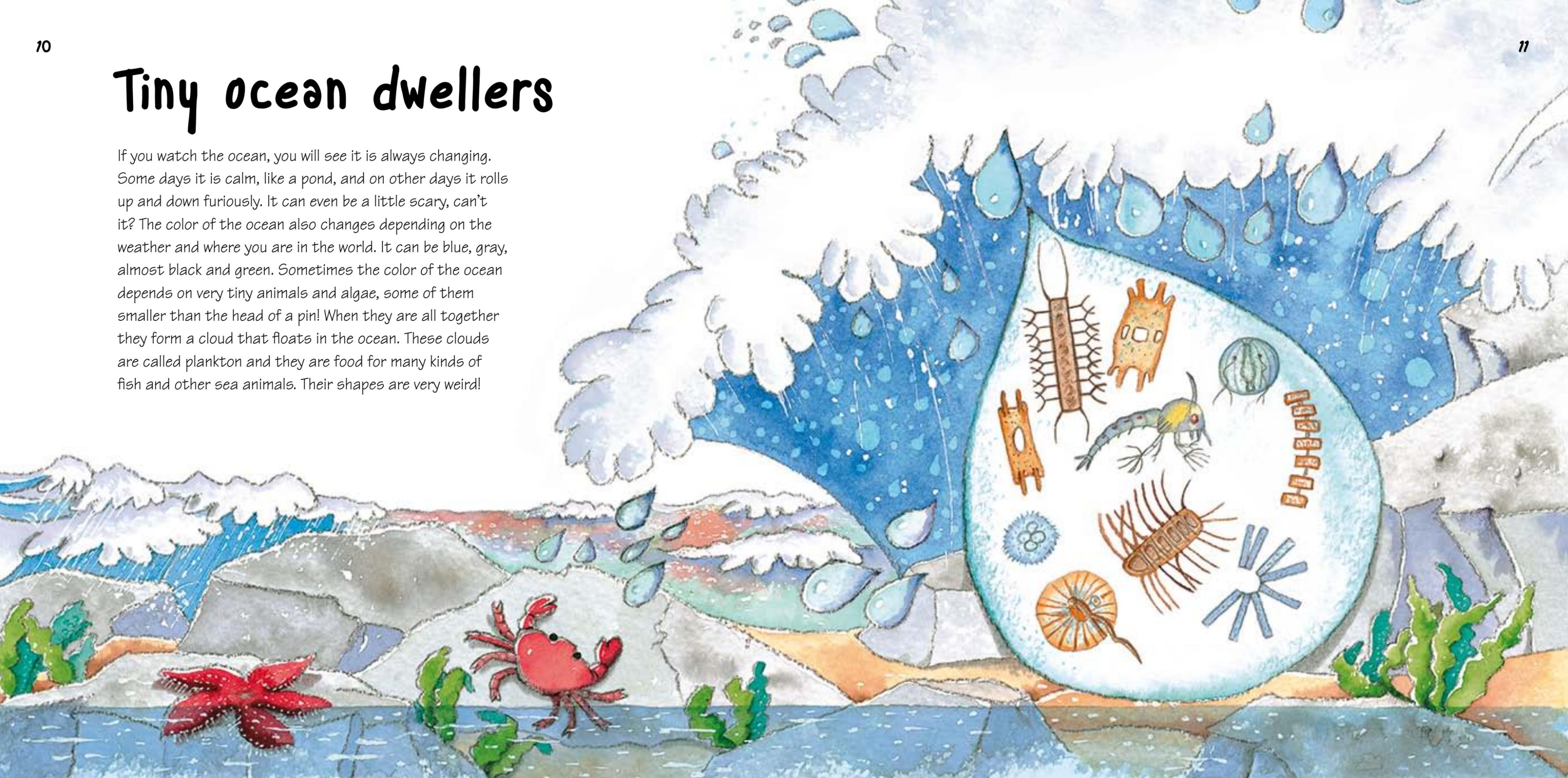
Ocean waters are always moving. I bet you have seen waves hitting rocks and splashing foam everywhere and, if you were a fish, the ocean current would drag you along, like there were rivers inside the water.

Imagine huge rivers travelling slowly through the ocean in different directions: warm rivers travelling above or below cold rivers, without ever mixing. The ocean likes to go to the beach too. Have you seen water moving onto sand and flooding it? When the tide is high, the beach gets covered with water, and, when the tide is low, the beach dries.



Tiny ocean dwellers

If you watch the ocean, you will see it is always changing. Some days it is calm, like a pond, and on other days it rolls up and down furiously. It can even be a little scary, can't it? The color of the ocean also changes depending on the weather and where you are in the world. It can be blue, gray, almost black and green. Sometimes the color of the ocean depends on very tiny animals and algae, some of them smaller than the head of a pin! When they are all together they form a cloud that floats in the ocean. These clouds are called plankton and they are food for many kinds of fish and other sea animals. Their shapes are very weird!





The great hunters

Are you afraid of sharks? Me too, because they are some of the best hunters in the sea. For sharks, teeth are so important that they have two rows of them, one behind the other. If they lose a tooth while biting, it has a spare one right away, so they can keep on hunting. Sharks come in many sizes and shapes, all of them with skin as rough as sandpaper. The biggest ones, whale sharks, have no teeth and eat plankton. And where you see a shark, you can easily see a remora, a fish that has a sucking device on its head so it can cling to the shark and catch a free ride. In return, they clean the shark's skin!