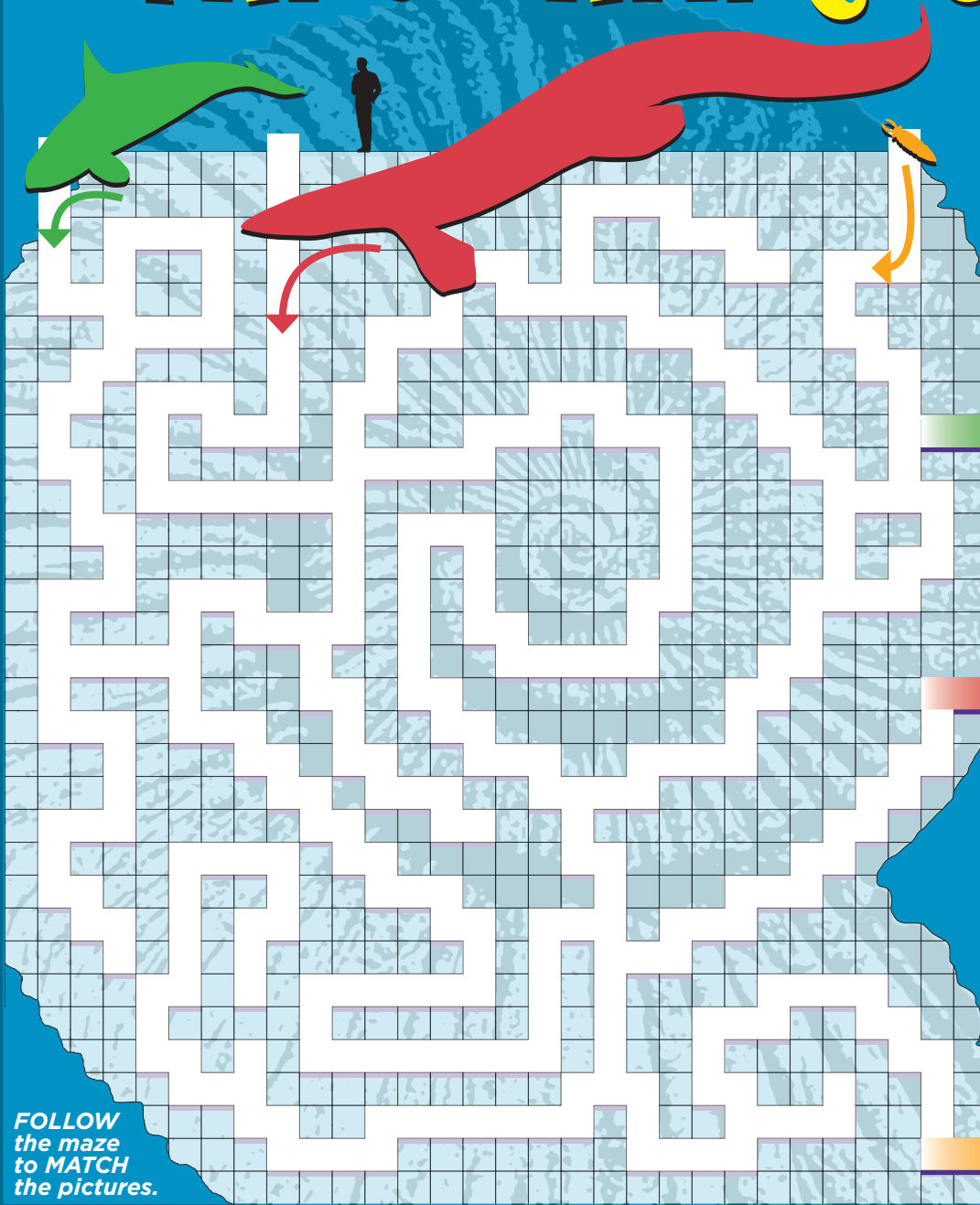


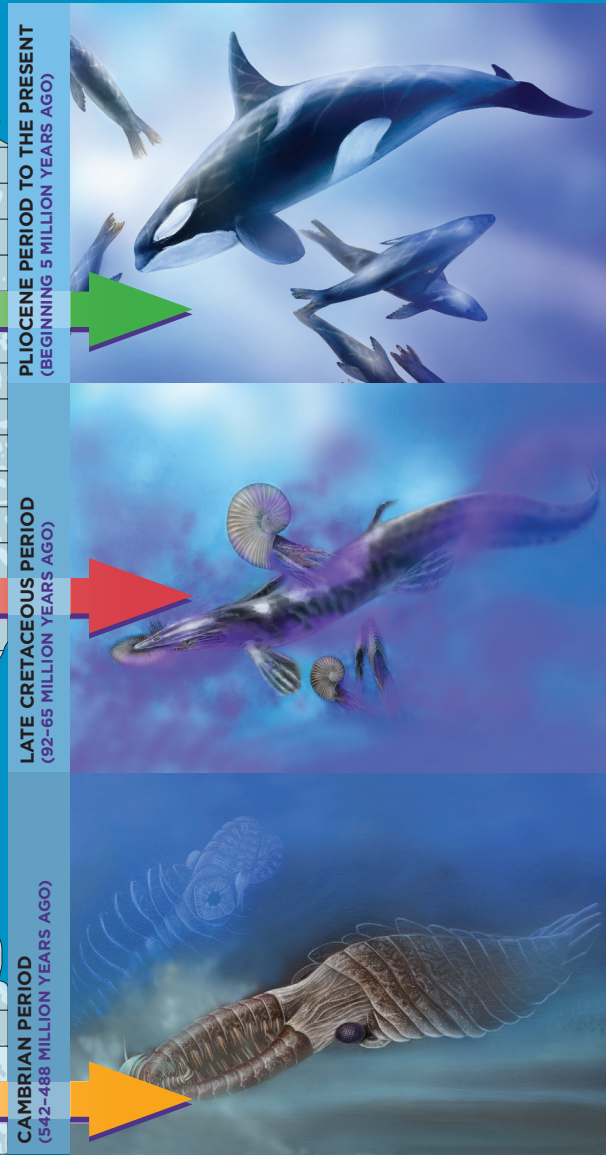
As the jellyfish said to the cranky crab,

WHAT'S EATING YOU THESE DAYS?

For as long as there have been creatures in the ocean, there has been a *top predator*, one that could eat anything without much danger of being eaten itself. Fill in the missing words to finish these poems and to learn what made each marine animal the scariest hunter of its time. The answers are upside down on the bottom.



FOLLOW the maze to MATCH the pictures.



PLIOCENE PERIOD TO THE PRESENT
(BEGINNING 5 MILLION YEARS AGO)

LATE CRETACEOUS PERIOD
(92-65 MILLION YEARS AGO)

CAMBRIAN PERIOD
(542-488 MILLION YEARS AGO)

KILLER WHALE

Maximum Size: 23 feet

Killer whale is a name that might seem a bit strange for something so cuddly and cute, For something that looks like a panda—a panda in a diving suit. But this highly intelligent mammal has all that a hunter could need: Strong jaws and great size, sharp teeth and sharp eyes, and a body built for _____.

MOSASAUR

Maximum Size: 50 feet

"I'm snug in my shell and everything's well," thought these mollusks, but that was before There came a big *Splash!* and their dreams were all dashed by the mighty mosasaur, Who tore through the deep with its gnashing teeth. It must've seemed really unfair That the terror of the watery world was a lizard that breathed _____.

ANOMALOCARIDID

Maximum Size: 3.28 feet

The biggest hunter of its day was a source of great unease For bite-sized little trilobites who swam the Cambrian seas. It wasn't size alone (three feet) that caused so much alarm, But also those *appendages*, each one a kind of _____.

Artwork: Mary Parrish