MINIO RIDERS

SHIPWRECK IN SEAL BAY

WRITTEN BY JEN MARLIN
ILLUSTRATED BY MARTA KISSI

HARPER

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Wind Riders #3: Shipwreck in Seal Bay

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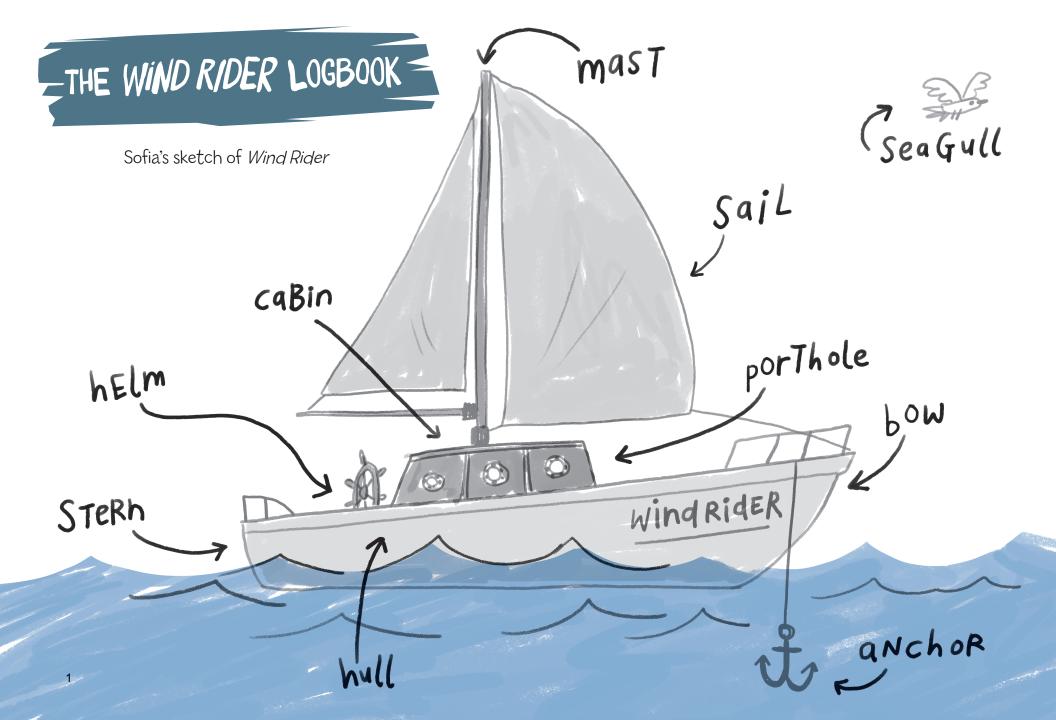
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First Edition



OUR SCOTTISH ADVENTURE

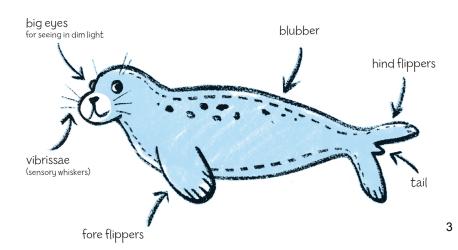
Wind Rider brought us to Scotland, which is the northernmost part of the United Kingdom. (The other parts are England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.) Scotland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, and off its east coast is the North Sea. Many interesting animals live in Scotland and around its coasts, such as seals, gannets, stoats, puffins, and even dolphins! Unfortunately, many of these creatures are endangered and face problems like habitat destruction and lack of food.



MAX'S HARBOR SEAL FACTS

We loved playing with harbor seals in Scotland! Here are my top harbor seal facts.

All harbor seals have a fatty layer under their skin called blubber. This keeps them warm when they are swimming in cold water. Blubber also stores nutrients as an emergency energy source and helps seals easily stay afloat. Swimming is tiring and takes up a lot of energy!





Harbor seals are amazing divers. They can swim down as far as one thousand six hundred feet (that's more than the height of the Empire State Building) and hold their breath for up to twenty-eight minutes!

When seals sunbathe on a beach in large numbers, it's called a haul-out. They usually do this to rest or to find a mate.

One of the biggest dangers baby seals face is getting caught in fishing nets by mistake.

SOFIA'S OIL SPILL FACTS

Oil spills can happen when boats carrying oil are wrecked or when oil wells that are pumping oil from beneath the seabed get damaged.

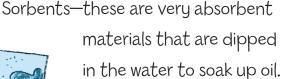
An oil spill is very bad for sea life. Birds, seals, and sea otters that get covered in oil can't clean themselves. They have to be caught and then cleaned by humans with a special detergent. The thinner fur on seals means they are easier to clean than birds with many feathers or furry animals like otters. It can take up to three hundred gallons of water to get one bird clean.

It's very hard to clean up oil spills, but here are some of the best methods:



Booms—these are floating barriers

that can be put around the edge of an oil slick to stop it spreading any farther.





Skimmers—these are like special

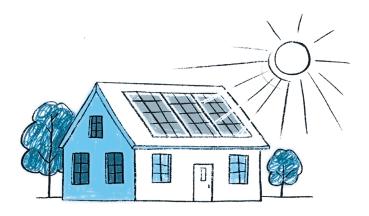


vacuum cleaners that suck the oil up from the surface of the water. The oil can then be recycled and used as an ingredient for other materials such as rubber.

HOM CAN WE HELP

PREVENT

OIL SPILLS? We can prevent oil spills by reducing our need for oil and using renewable energy instead—that's energy that comes from naturally replenishing sources like the wind, the sun, moving water, or even from heat deep beneath the earth. Does your home get energy from solar panels or wind turbines?



Wind from the west, fish bite the best.

Wind from the east, fish bite the least.

Wind from the north, do not go forth.

Wind from the south blows bait in their mouth.

This is an old proverb... and like many old proverbs, there is some truth in it! However, it's not the wind that makes the fishing conditions better, but the changes in temperature and weather that usually go with the change in wind direction.