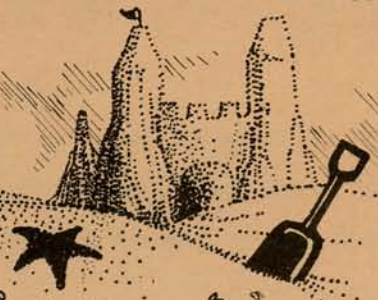


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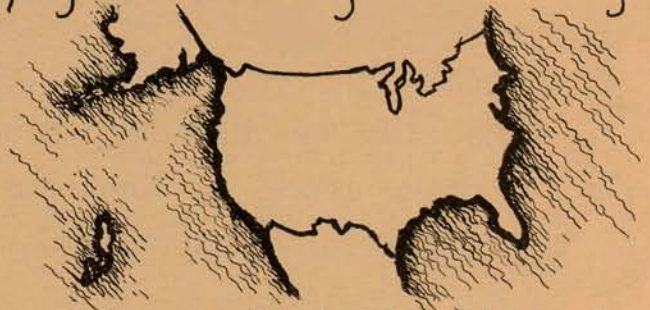
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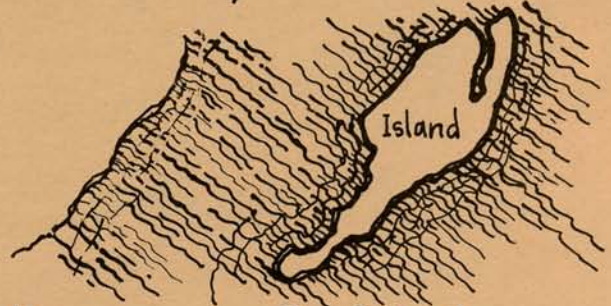
## THE YEAR OF THE COAST

1980 is The Year of the Coast in America. That means that this year more and more people will be studying and learning about taking care of America's coasts.

But, what is a "coast" ?



Coasts are found wherever oceans meet land. The United States has 22 states that touch oceans. These states all have coasts. Georgia is very lucky. It has islands, too. Islands have ocean and coasts on all sides !



Most of us think that coasts mean vacation, beaches and sunshine. That is true, but coasts are important for many other reasons. In fact, there are many kinds of coasts.



This is a coast,



and this,



and this

Unusual plants and animals live on Georgia's coastal islands.

These islands have marshes. Marshes are very important parts of the coast. Marshes are swampy places where tall sea grasses grow. Salty ocean tides wash in each day to fill the marshes with fresh ocean water.



Marshes may be many miles wide. Large animals like raccoons, muskrats and sea birds nest and feed in the marshes. Huge numbers of tiny sea animals like crabs, shrimp and fish are born in marshes. There is plenty of food for them there, and there are plenty of hiding places. These tiny animals will wash out to the ocean. In the ocean these animals will grow, or become food for bigger animals

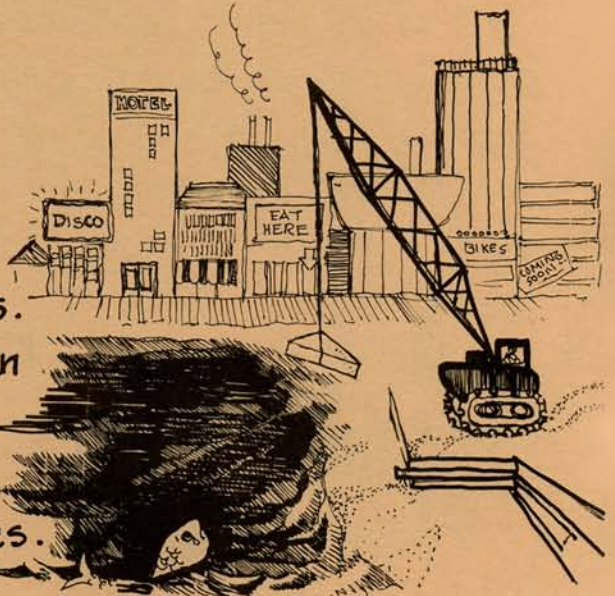


If we do not keep our marshes clean and safe, many sea animals will never have a chance to grow up. Why would this be a problem for fishermen?



Sometimes people build too many houses, hotels and roads along the coasts. Marshes get filled in by builders and even polluted by factories.

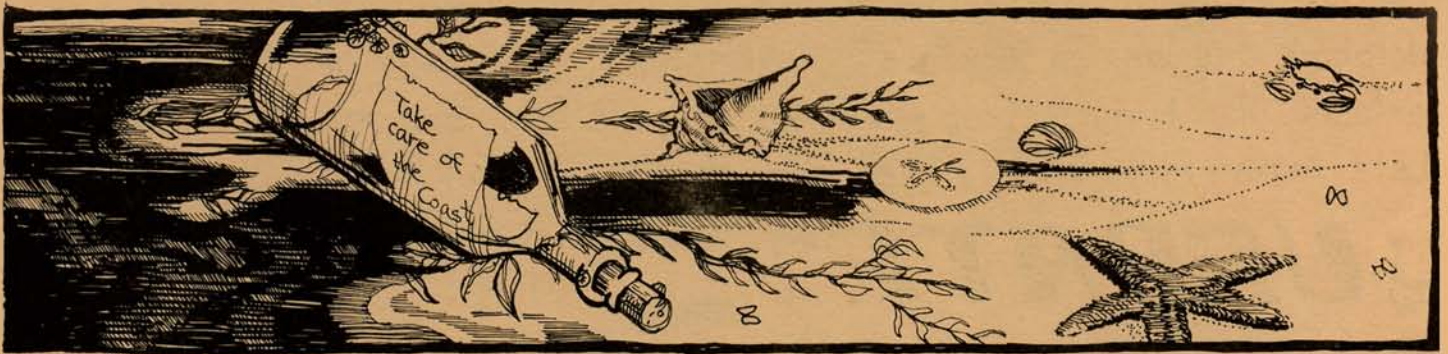
! More and more must be done to teach people the value of these marshes.



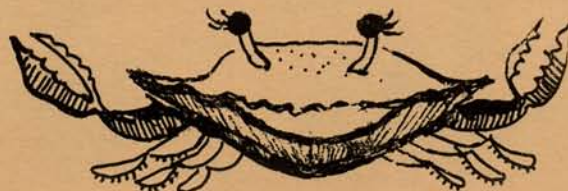
**Sand Dunes** are another very special part of the coast. These are high piles of sand along the shore and on the sides of islands that face the ocean. These dunes may be as high as a house. They protect the island or the land from wind and waves.



Ocean birds nest here, and other animals live in the dunes. Too many people doing too much building can tear down important sand dunes.



Many things about a coast are important. They must be treated very carefully. Making 1980 THE YEAR OF THE COAST will help people to hear more and learn more about the coasts. New laws will be made to keep people from hurting the marshes, sand dunes and islands and the animals who live there. The next time you visit a coast - look for the marshes and sand dunes. Remember, these are "living" places for millions of coast creatures.



The Facts: For thousands of years people have used oceans as giant garbage dumps. Dirty water from homes and pollution from industries have been dumped along the coasts of the world. Many of us have never considered the oceans as "living" places for things. But it is true that more plants and animals live in oceans than on all the land on earth!

Soon the people of the world will turn more to the oceans for help. Our planet is becoming more crowded each year. Countries are using up land supplies of oil, gas, food, and other necessary things. The oceans are rich with supplies of food. They grow fish and plants we can eat. The bottoms of oceans have huge supplies of oil, natural gas, and valuable metals.

People have always believed that the oceans were so huge and deep that they never could be harmed by pollution. They thought fishermen and hunters could take all the sea animals they wanted, and never run out. Now we know this is not true. Many sea animals like dolphins and whales are near "extinction". The Year of the Coast efforts plan to make people aware of problems and to effect changes. Let's make every year The Year of the Coast!

