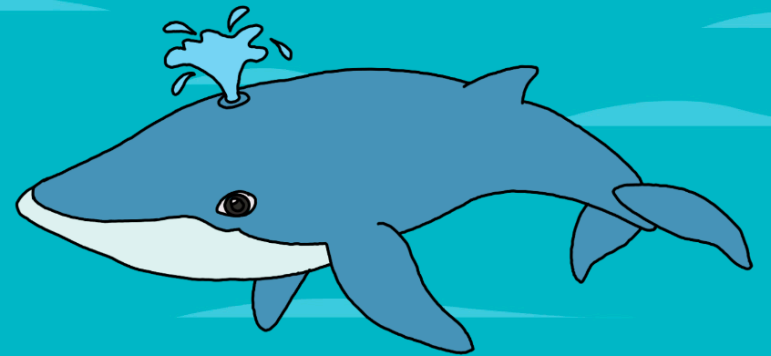


The Plants, the Animals, and You



Sean Nesamoney



The Plants, the Animals, and You

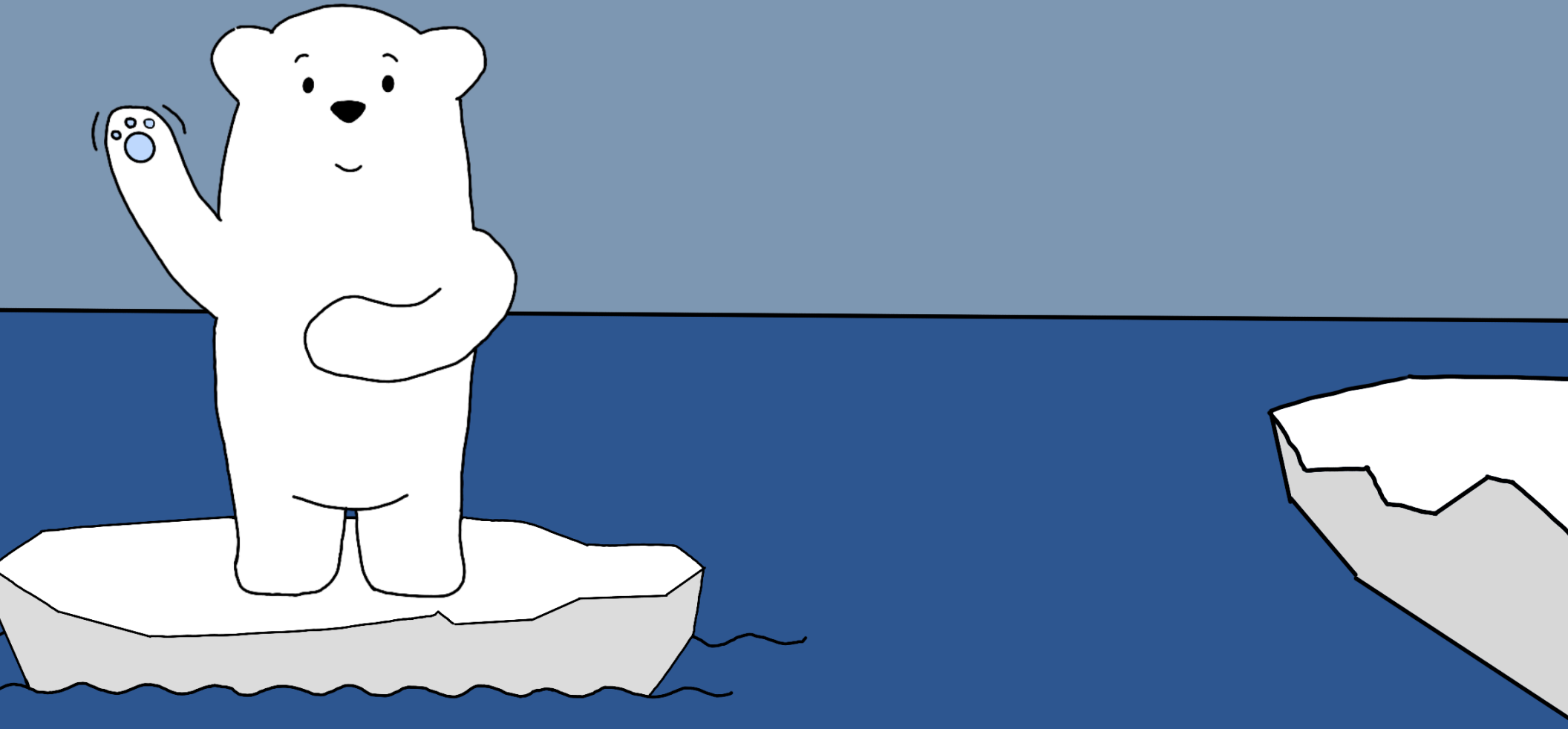
This children's book aims to educate young readers about the effects of climate change on the earth's wildlife and biodiversity. Its creation was inspired by the increase in climate activism and awareness.

Written and Illustrated by: Sean Nesamoney

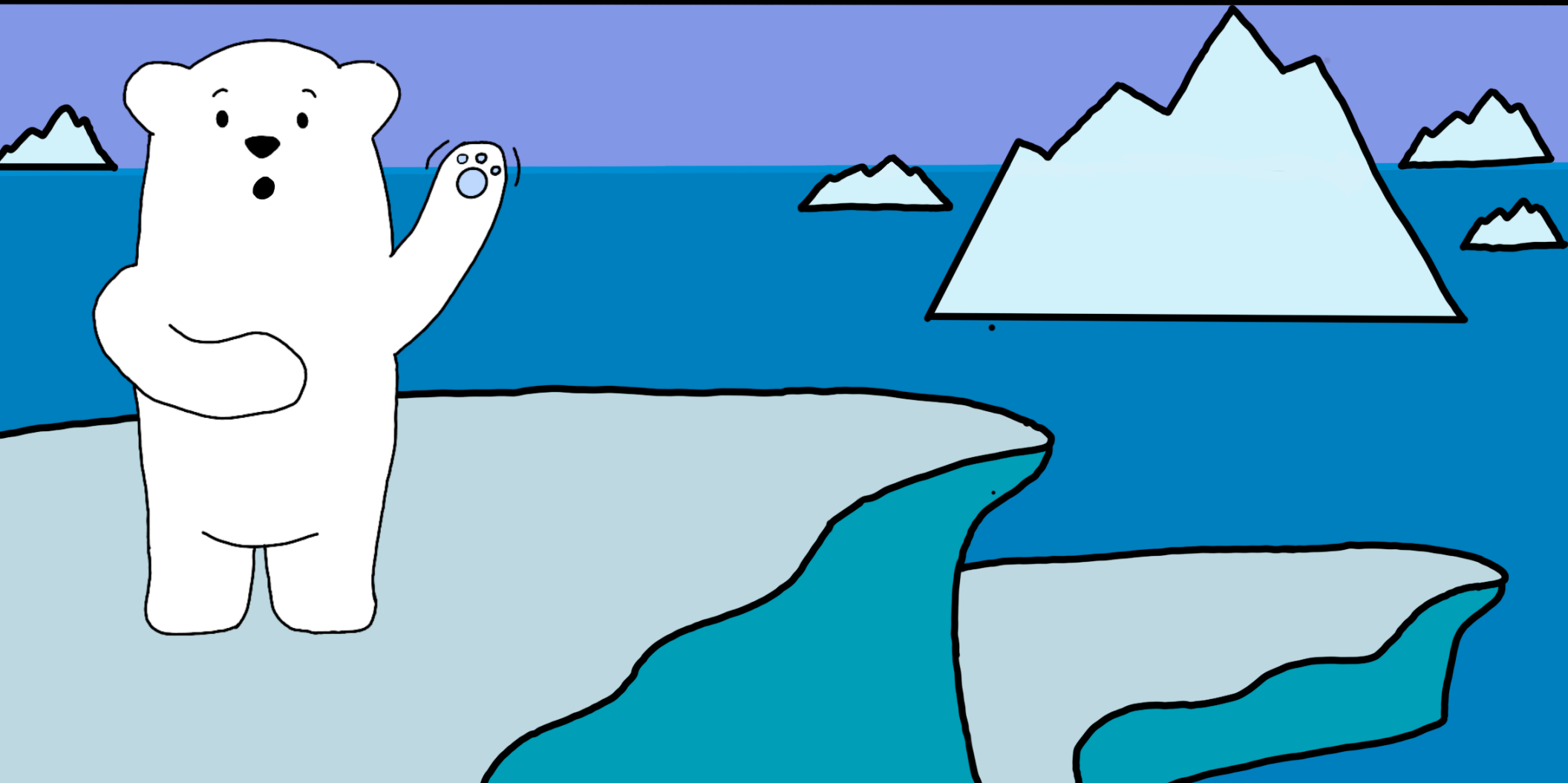


The Arctic

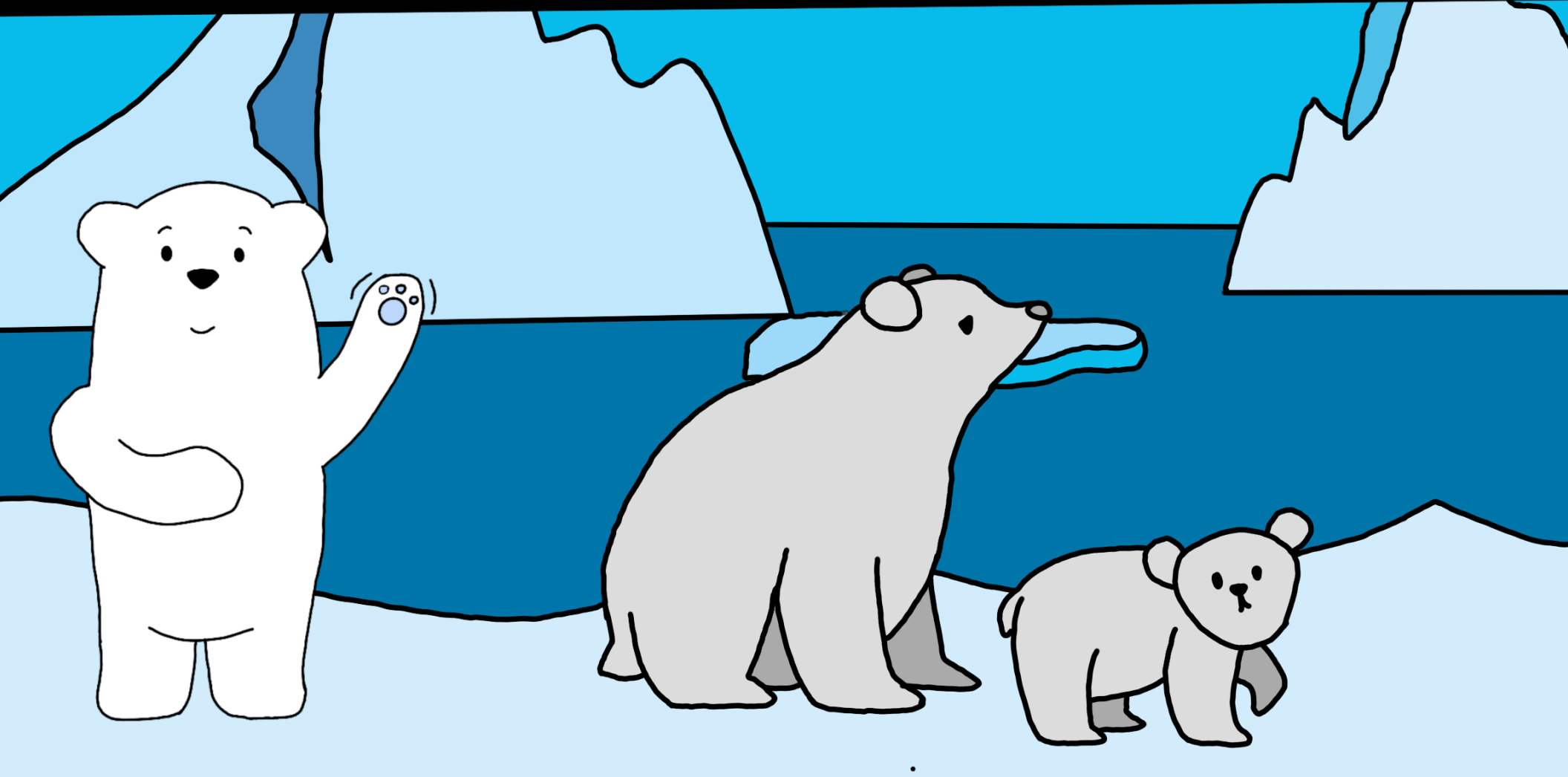
Hi! My name is Leo, I am a polar bear, and I live in the Arctic. I rarely see humans because it is so cold here, but I want to tell you about my home. The Arctic Oceans are known for having large ice caps that span for miles across the surface, or at least they used to. As time has gone by, the ice has begun to melt away, faster and faster.



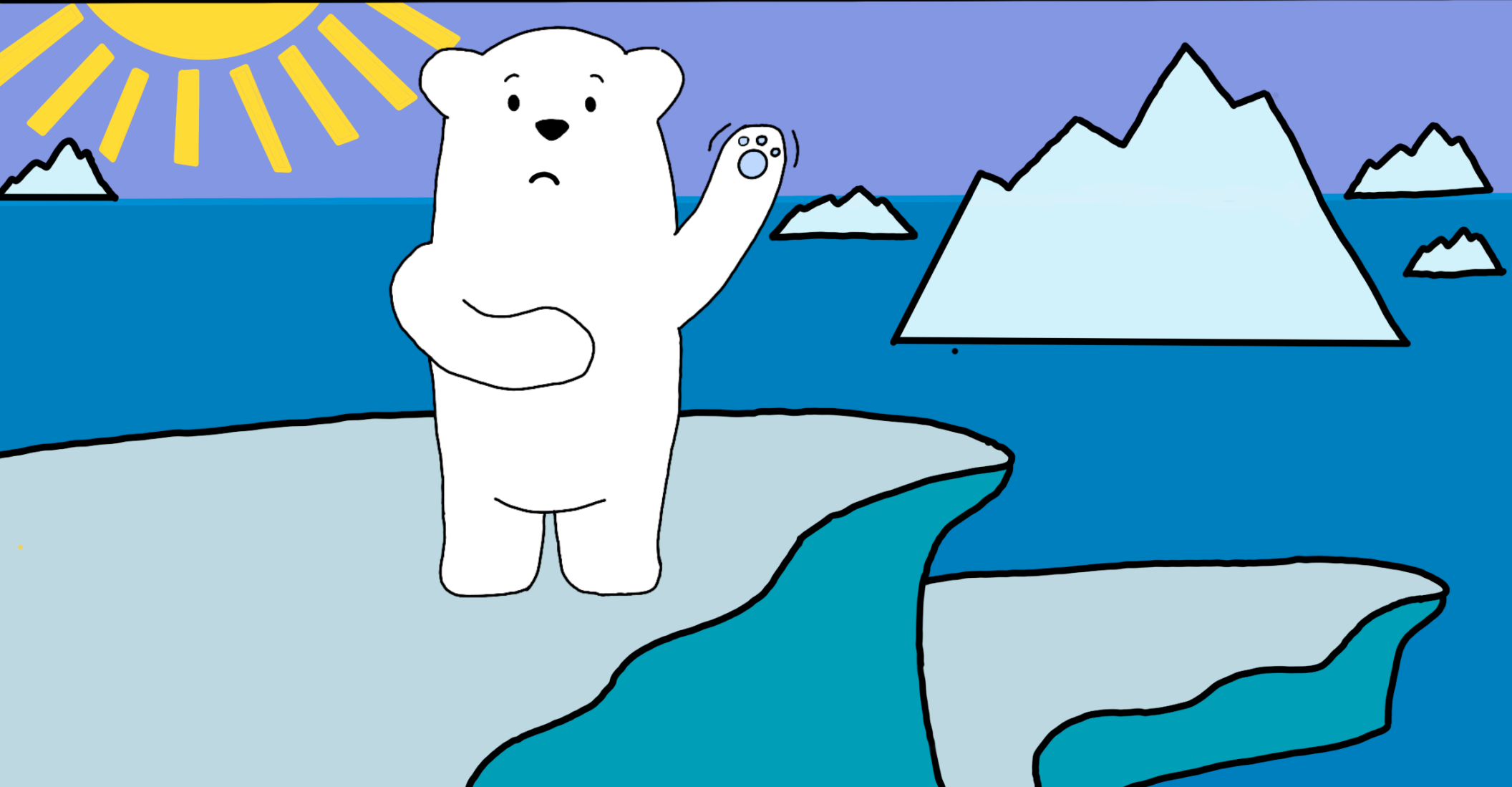
You've probably heard the term "greenhouse gases." This term is used to describe the release of chemical gases into the Earth's atmosphere. Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are especially bad for the environment. Greenhouse gases cause the temperatures of our atmosphere to increase. As more gases are released into the air around us, the hotter our planet becomes.



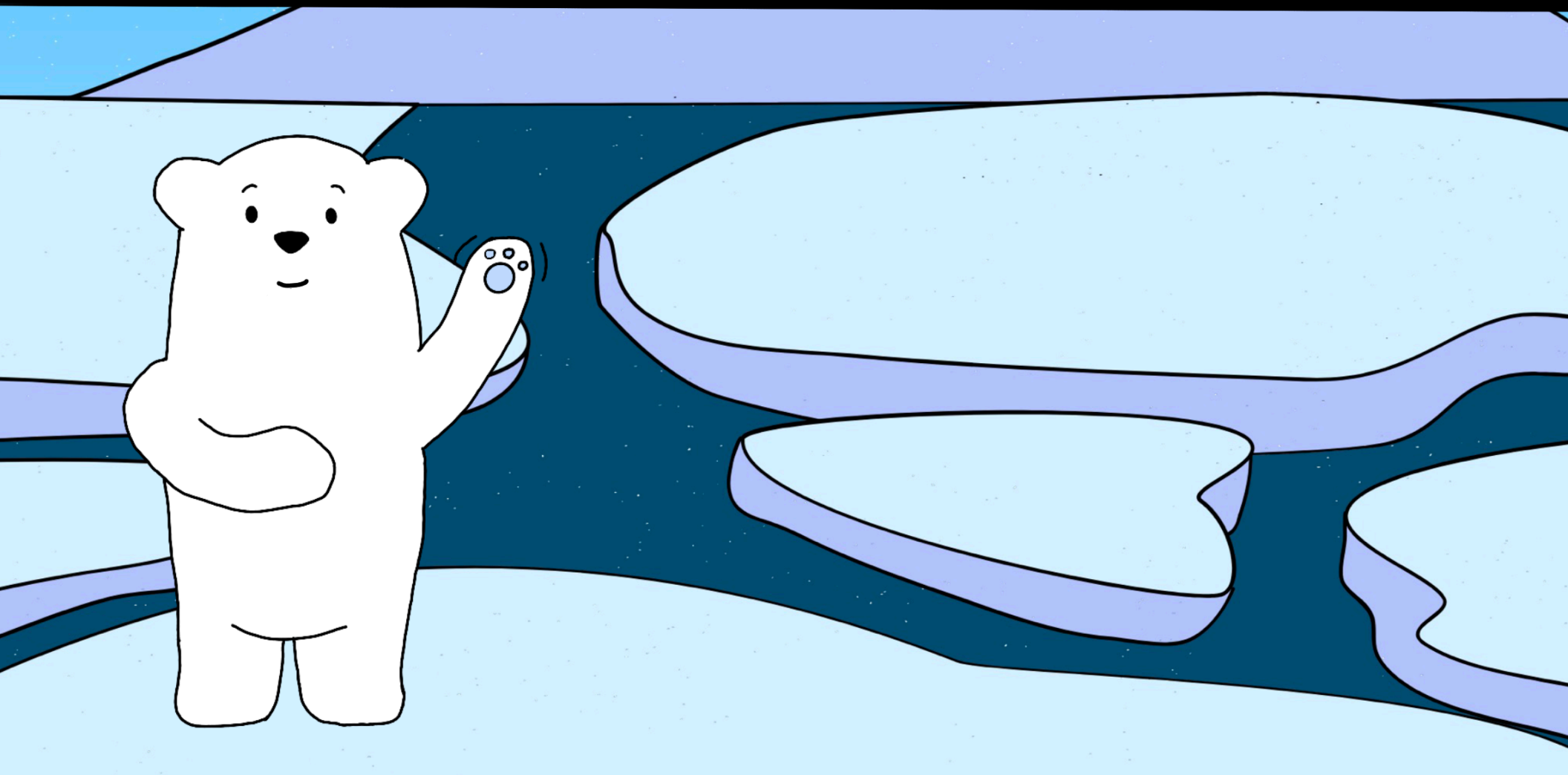
As polar bears, we have very thick fur and must live in the Arctic where it is very cold. However, the effects of climate change have increased the temperatures around here and our homes are melting away.



Because of this, we do not have many places to rest on the water. This forces us to move towards the land nearby. Living on the ice is important for us in order to get food and stay in a cold climate. As we migrate to the land, the food becomes limited and our chances of survival are lowered.

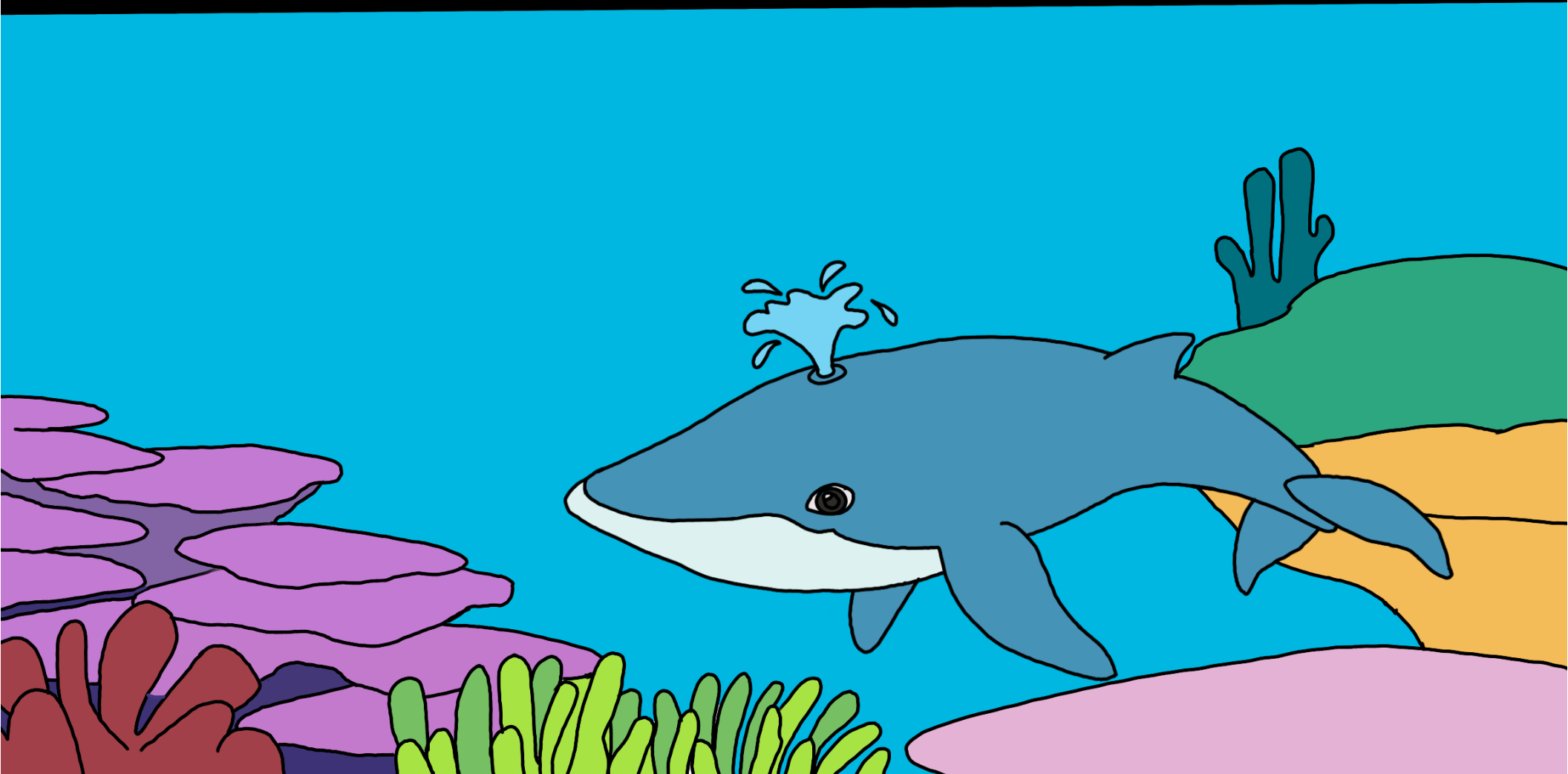


The Arctic polar bears are in danger, but it's not too late to save us! The increase in greenhouse gases has been a huge threat to my family and I. As humans, you can make small changes to your life and help decrease the number of emissions. For example, taking the bus to school or carpooling with friends will decrease the number of cars on the road. You can also practice reusing and recycling items. There are so many ways to help the environment and I hope you do! Now, I'm going to send you to Leslie, as you dive into the deep blue sea!

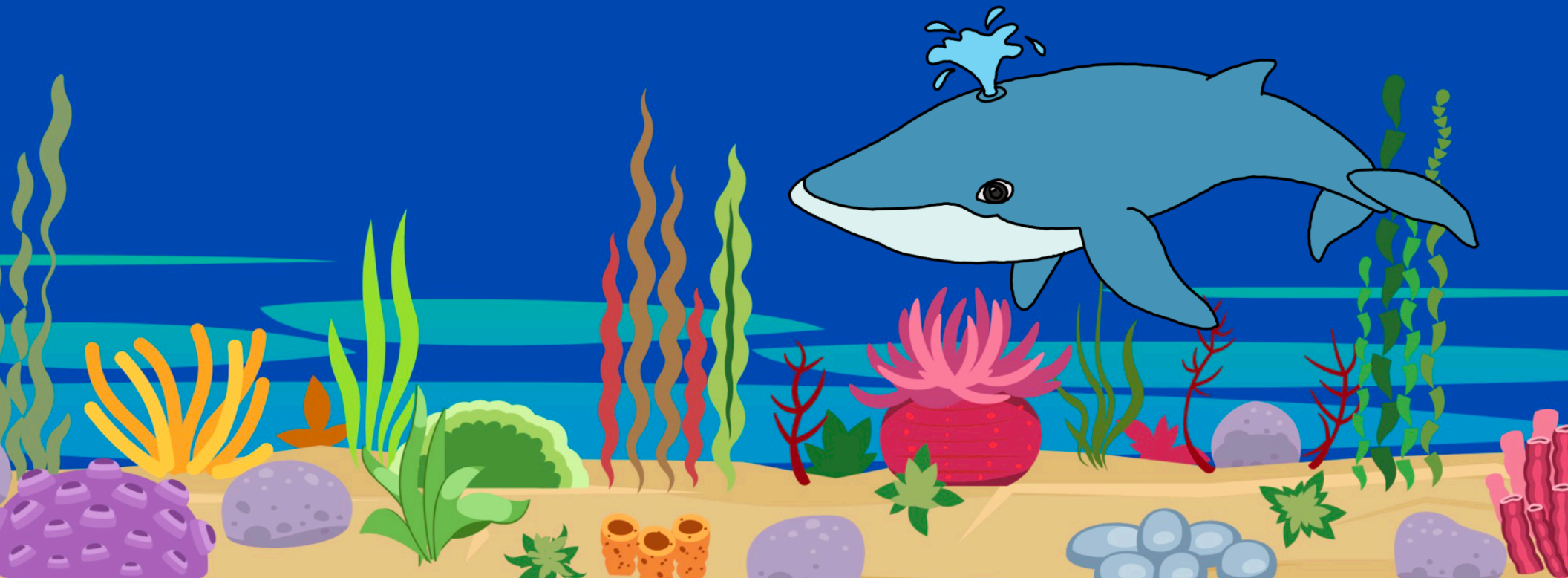


The Deep Blue Sea

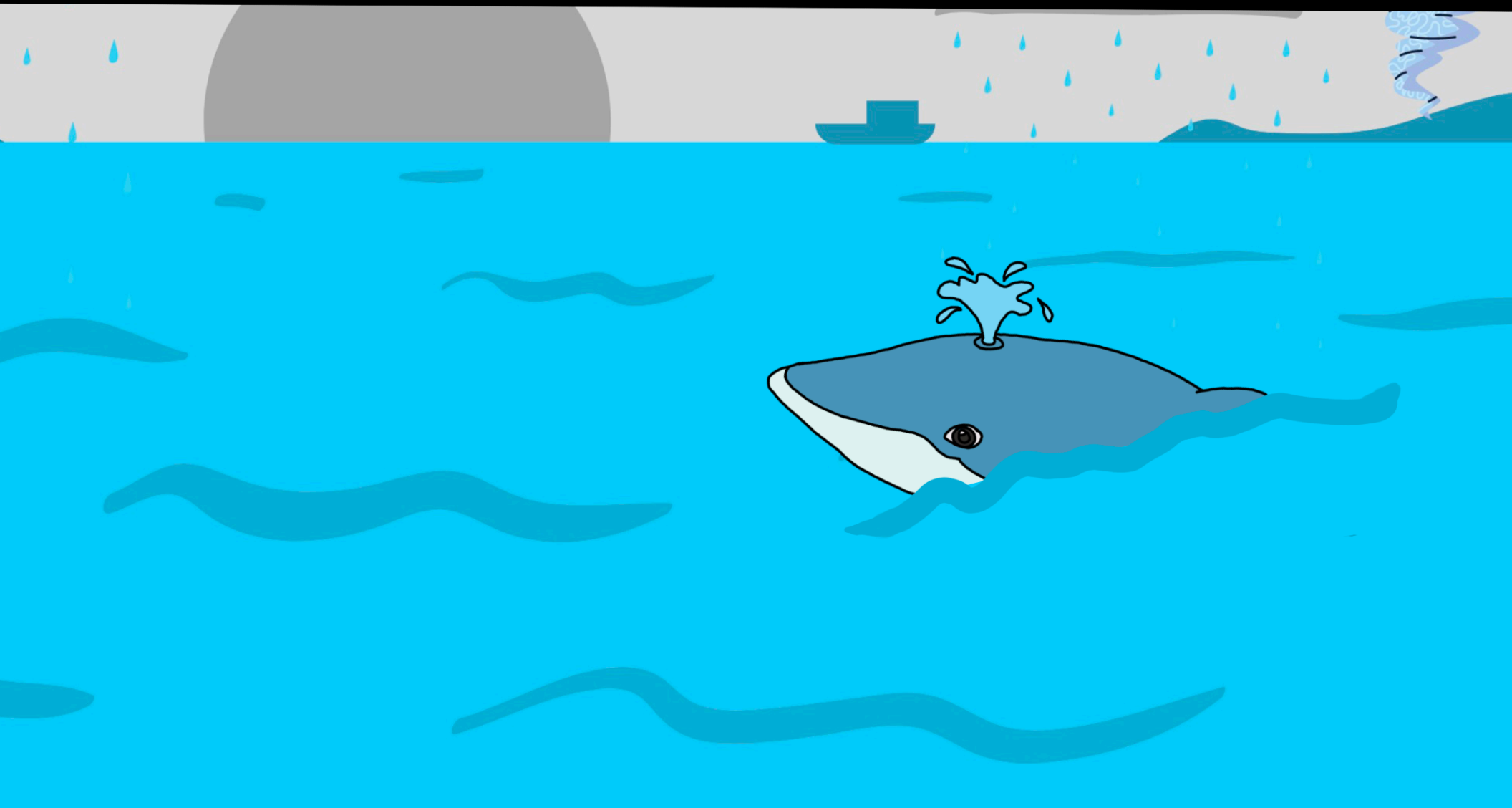
Hi! My name is Leslie, I am a blue whale, and I live in the Pacific Ocean, just off the shores of Monterey, California! Even though you can't tell from above the water, my home has been greatly affected by the rise in temperatures in the atmosphere. You may think that the deep blue sea is too big to be impacted; however, the water has become warmer over time and has disrupted our migration patterns.



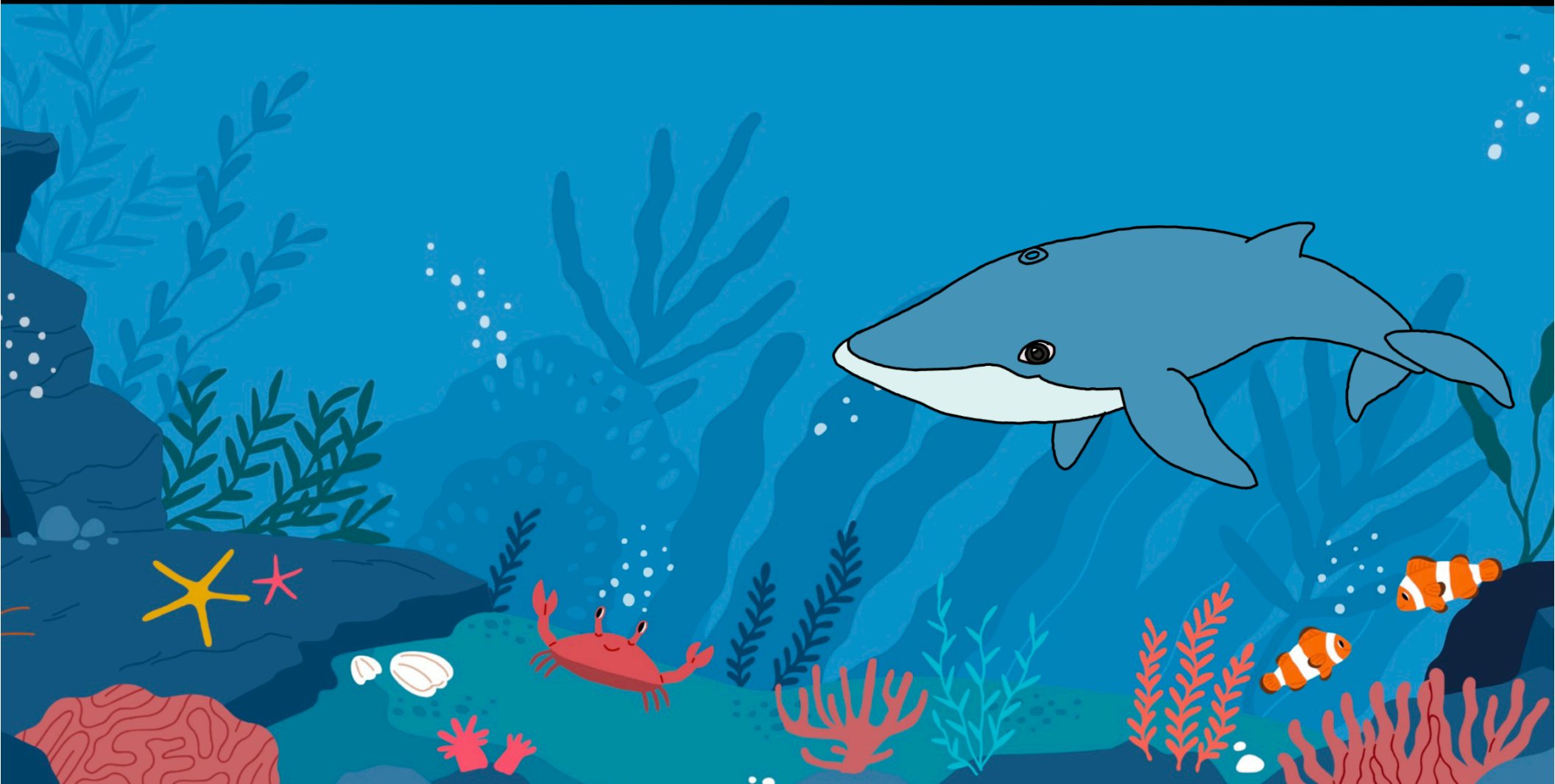
Whales migrate to different waters to find more food or to start their families! This migration pattern is seen because whales tend to move to colder waters during warm seasons and warmer waters during cold seasons. However, the effects of climate change have caused the temperatures to rise more than usual. The warmer waters have limited our food supply and made it more difficult for us to gain the energy to swim long distances.



Believe it or not, carbon dioxide emissions have also impacted the oceans. Carbon dioxide in the air dissolves in the ocean water and changes its chemistry. These emissions are primarily a result of human activities such as burning fuel. The carbon dioxide in the water weakens the coral and damages the skin of many fish and other sea creatures.



Like polar bears, marine life is in danger as a result of global warming! As humans, it is even more difficult for you to see the effects it is having on us since you are always on the land! However, I hope that my story taught you more about sea life right now and I encourage you to continue being passionate environmental citizens! Now, it's time to fly away up North to learn about the rainforests!



The Rainforest

Hi! My name is Max, I am a sparrow, and I live in the Great Bear Rainforest in Canada. I enjoy finding the highest trees in the area and surveying the forest activity from above. Today, I am going to tell you about my home and how the climate change crisis has impacted it.



On a particular morning while I was resting on one of the highest trees, I saw something truly devastating. A group of humans began cutting down a patch of my favorite Douglas Fir trees. Deforestation is when people cut trees down, usually to make new space for buildings and farms. Cutting down trees destroys my habitat and also releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.



Global warming harms rainforests as well because the rise in temperature creates drier conditions. This is especially bad for rainforests because it increases the risk of wildfires. These fires spread fast throughout the trees and destroy all the plants and animals.



Fires are not the only problem caused by global warming. The heat from global warming can also cause droughts, meaning there is not enough water in the area. Droughts are a major issue because they can cause harm to the animals that live in rainforests who are accustomed to moist environments. These droughts have caused many species to decline and have led to more problems such as lack of food and an unbalanced ecosystem.



Just like the ocean and Arctic, the rainforests are at risk of losing their biodiversity due to global warming. However, it is not too late for changes to be made. Little changes to your everyday life can go a long way and help save the wildlife!



The End



“The Plants, the Animals, and You” is a fictional children’s book that aims to educate young readers about the effects of climate change on the earth’s wildlife and biodiversity. Although the characters in the story are fictional, the information discussed is based on factual evidence about the ongoing climate crisis.

Leo: Leo is a fictional polar bear who teaches readers about the effects of climate change on the Arctic. Although Leo is an imaginary character, the descriptions of his habitat and physiology are accurate and scientifically supported. Furthermore, Leo’s explanations of the effects of climate change on the Arctic have been adjusted to better fit the knowledge of a third-grader while still offering a learning opportunity.

Leslie: Leslie is a fictional blue whale who teaches readers about the effects of climate change on marine life. Information about her primary habitat in the Pacific Ocean and common migration patterns are accurate and based on credible scientific research. Leslie’s explanations about the effects of climate change on marine life offer readers an outlook on what is going on below the surface and are based on real facts.

Max: Max is a fictional sparrow bird who teaches readers about the effects of climate change on rainforests. His explanations about the effects of deforestation, greenhouse gases, and wildfires are accurate and based on real facts. Like Leo and Leslie, Max’s habitat and physical features are accurately portrayed.

Scientific terminology: all scientific vocabulary (ie: CO2 emissions, ocean currents) used in this book are real pieces of evidence that have been supported by scholarly research, not fictional.

If you are passionate about learning more about our ecosystem and how climate change is affecting it, there is an abundance of resources available to you. Firstly, ask the adults in your life: teachers, parents, relatives, etc. They may have incredible insight on these topics and offer new perspectives. Furthermore, parents and teachers can teach you more about the science behind climate change, if you are interested! Secondly, doing your own research is a great way to learn more about this topic. Reading articles and watching videos about climate change can teach you many interesting facts. If you are especially interested in wildlife, you can read articles from the World Wildlife Fund (<https://www.worldwildlife.org/>) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website (<https://www.fws.gov/home/climatechange/impacts.html>). When doing your own research, it is extremely important to use credible sources. This means that the information provided is accurate and supported by evidence. If you are unsure about whether your source is credible or not, ask an adult! Finally, if you want to learn more about how you can make a difference in protecting the environment, try visiting the article, “10 Ways to Help Wildlife,” published by the World Animal Foundation (<https://www.worldanimalfoundation.com/>).

