

CAROUSEL COSMOS

INTERDIMENSIONAL CRAFT KIT



Dear Friends,

Enclosed here are two whales, a walrus, a dinosaur and a dragon. There are also ribbons and pom-poms, faraway galaxies and spectacular sunsets. Everything here is made up of the same tiny atoms that the stars are made of too. So am I. So are you.

Carousel Cosmos is a temporary outdoor public art installation on the Western Promenade in Portland, Maine. It was commissioned by an organization called TEMPOart and made by me, Chris Miller. It will be on the Western Promenade for just one year.

This interdimensional craft kit is another way to explore *Carousel Cosmos*, anytime, from anywhere in the universe.

You could use it to make your own carousel. You could make a garland, a mobile, a booklet, a collage, a puppet show or a diorama. I made miniature versions of the animals before building the carousel. They are included here as 3d paper crafts, to be your guides.

Carousel Cosmos is a model of the universe designed to make you smile. It is designed to make you curious and to strengthen your sense of wonder. It is inspired by LOTS of things that I've learned from being a parent, and by LOTS of things that I learned about with my kids. The dragon is inspired by a very old drawing of a dolphin. The walrus is inspired by a very old drawing of a walrus. Bob, the Protocetid is an ancestor of whales, partly inspired by my dog Charlee. That's how she looks on a hot summer day.

Your model of the universe if you choose to make one, can be about anything you like. It can be about anything that's important to you or anything that you find interesting. If you want to, you can write an artist's statement about your creation. It could be long or short. You could write it before or after you've decided what to make. This is what I wrote about *Carousel Cosmos*.

This carousel is inspired by kindness, adventure, outer space, bed-time stories, dinosaurs and ice cream. It's inspired by the Western Promenade's endless views, spectacular sunsets and contemplative atmosphere. It spins the way that the earth spins when the sun sets, in a place where trolleys used to stop, in a small picturesque city with a school community that speaks more than sixty different languages. It will travel once around the sun without leaving the ground, then vanish.¹ In the meanwhile it is a place for conversation, contemplation, imagination and snacks², with animals that once roamed here as your guides. They're not mythological, just misunderstood, and they invite you on a journey to greater understanding.³

1. This is a year-long temporary art installation supported by TEMPOart.

2. Please don't feed the animals, they have very special diets.

3. Look for clues in the star-flowers! (By star flowers, I mean QR codes)

To learn more about these animals and this art installation, Scan the QR code to the right or visit this address:

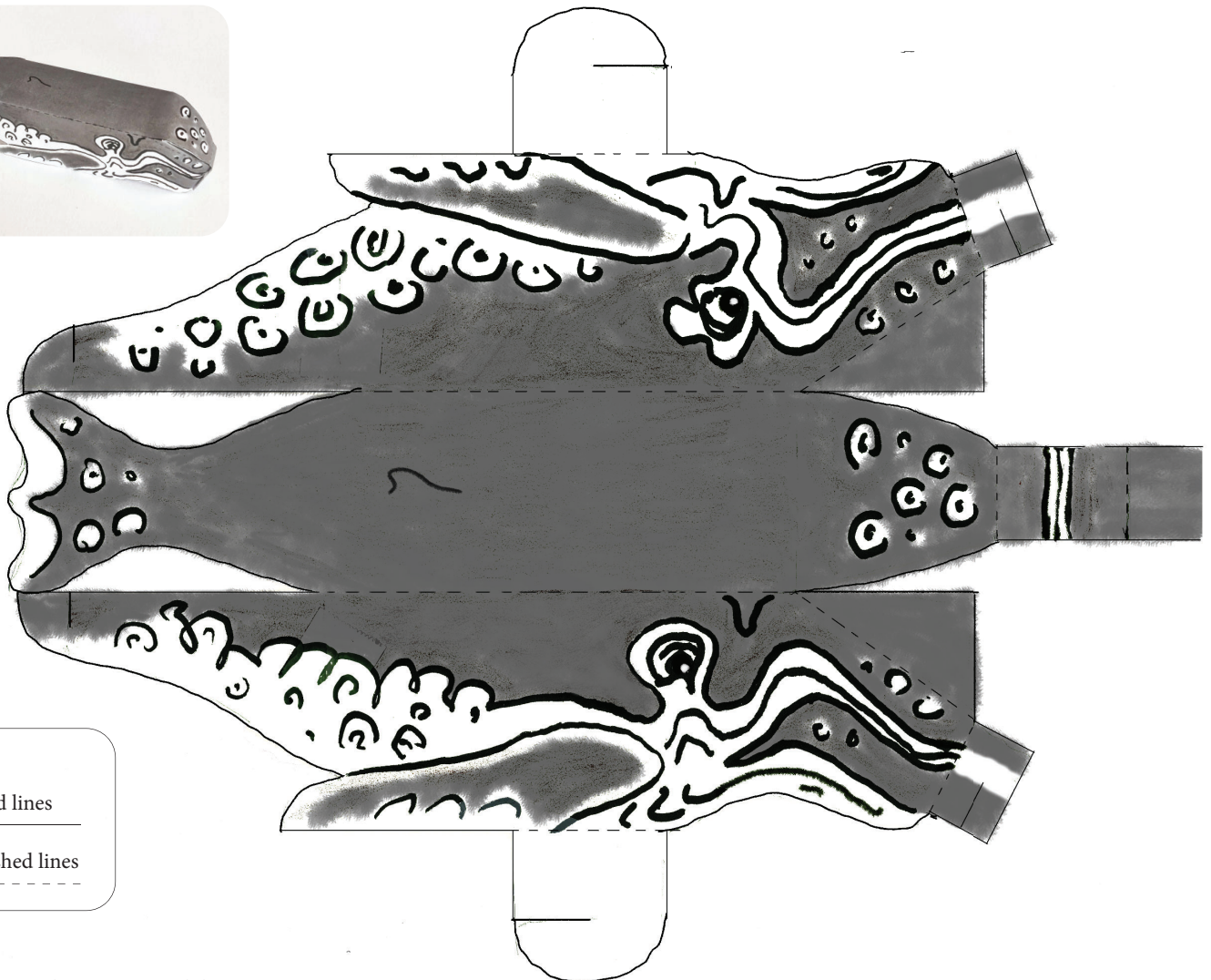
www.npdworkshop.com/carousel-cosmos



Whale



This is a whale. Its favorite food is krill. At different times during the last ice age, whales swam hundreds of feet above the Western Promenade. Scan this to learn more about whales.

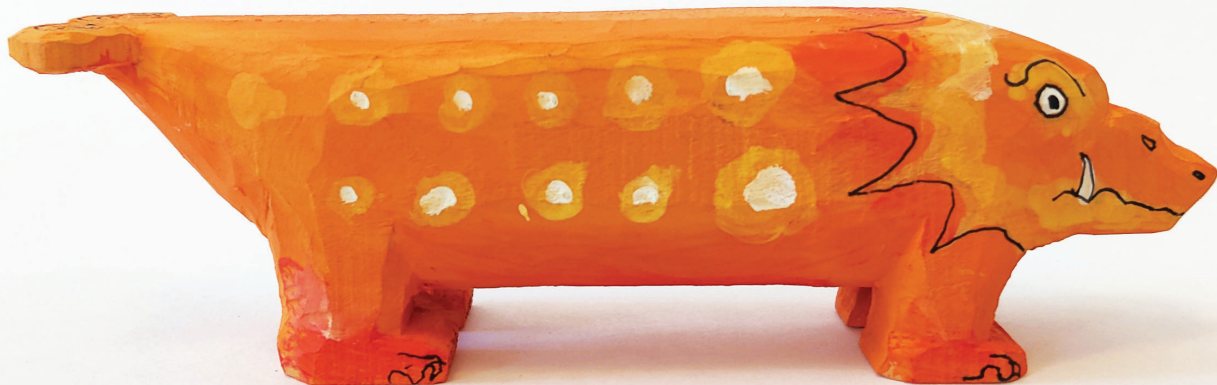


Key:

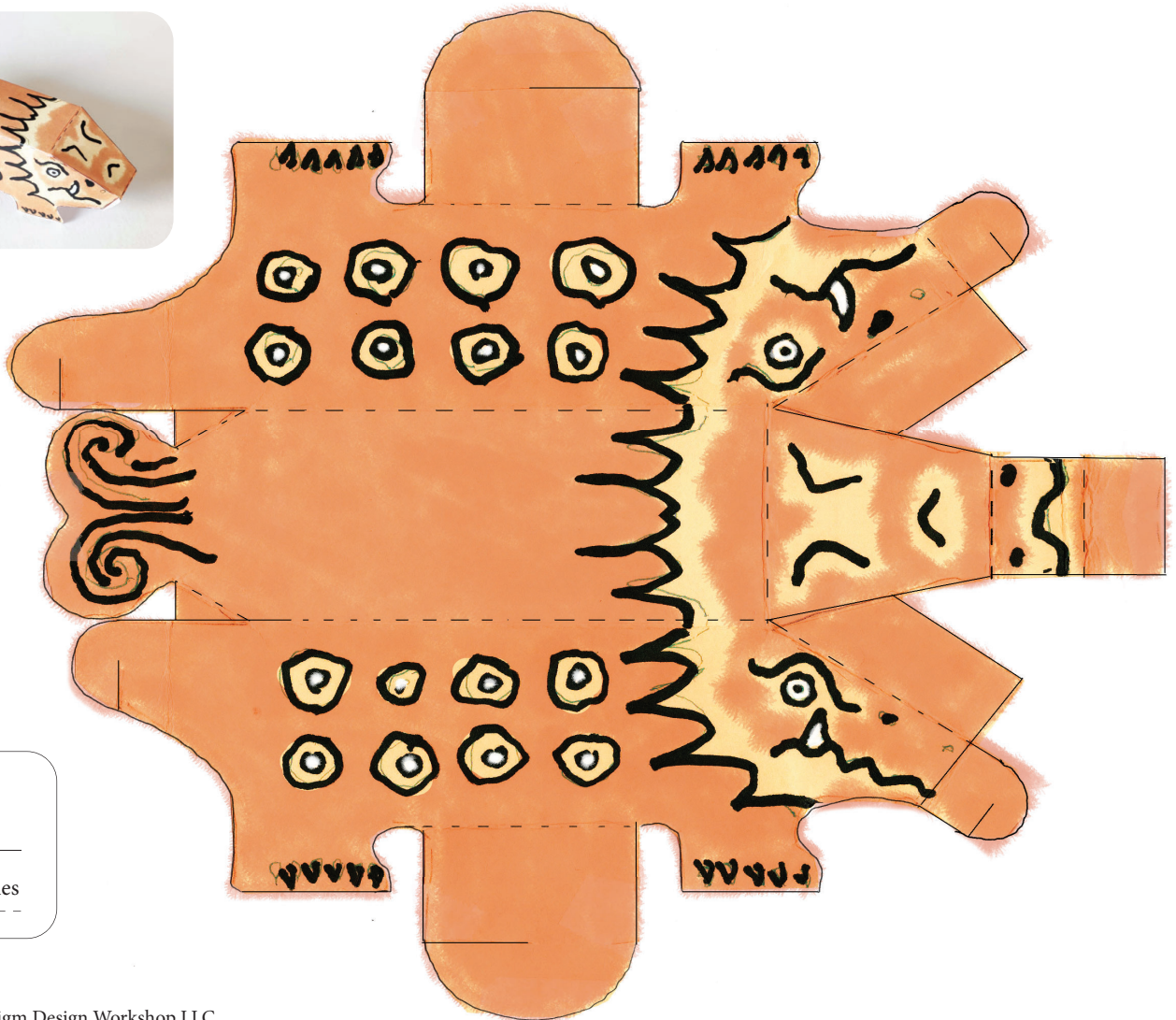
cut the solid lines

fold the dashed lines

Walrus



This is a walrus taken from a historical representation, made long before cameras or the internet. What do you think? Scan this to learn more about walruses.



Key:

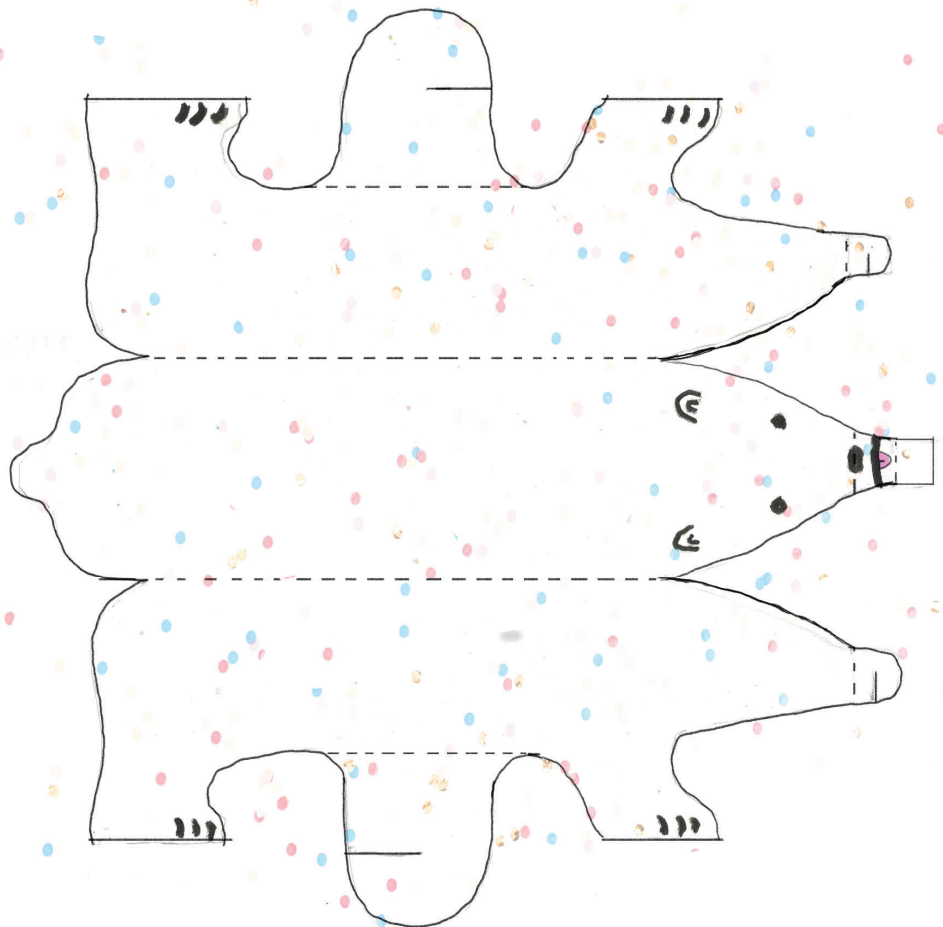
cut the solid lines

fold the dashed lines

Polar Bear



This is polar bear. At different times during the last ice age, polar bears prowled the edges of thick sea ice along the coast of Maine. Polar bears in the wild do not have confetti polka-dots. Neither do polar bears in captivity. Only this one does. Scan this to learn more about polar bears.



Key:

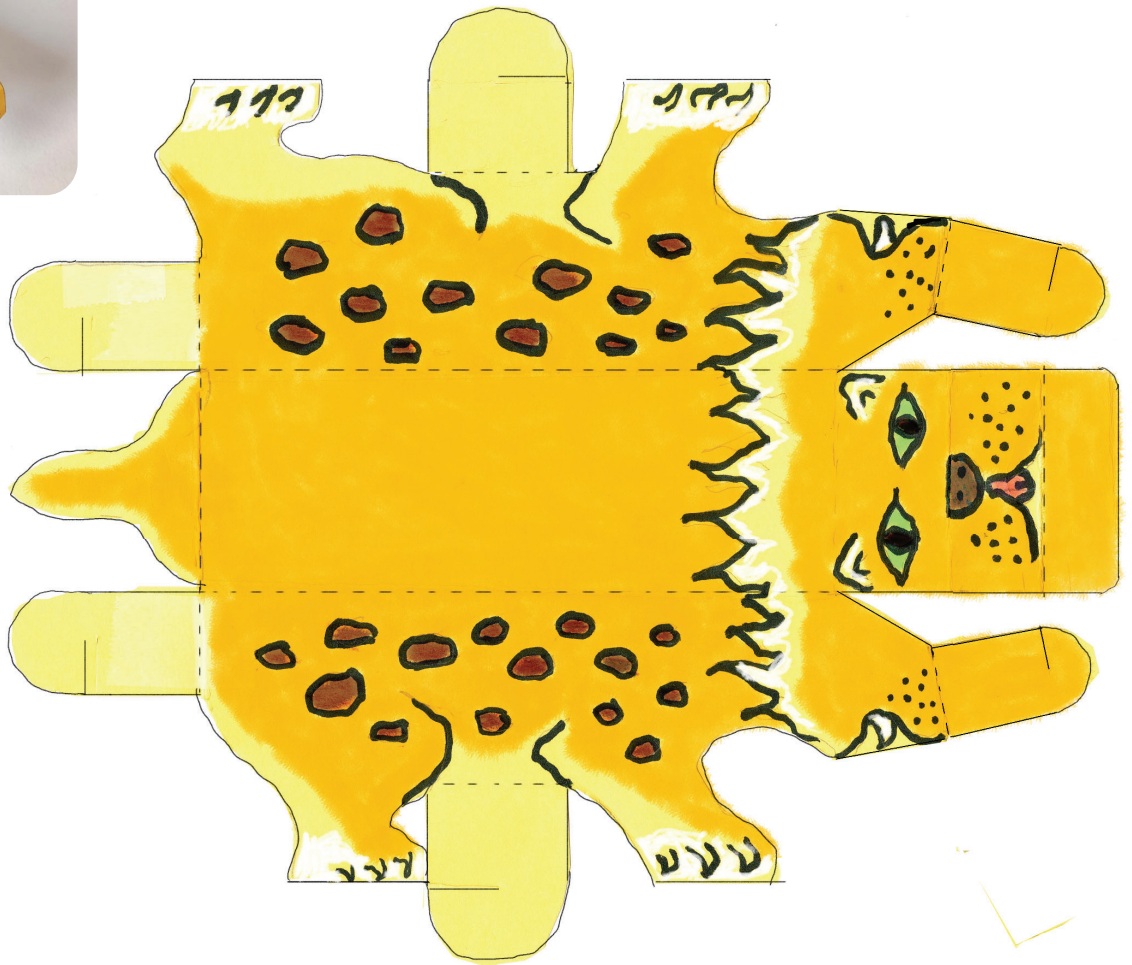
— cut the solid lines

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Smilodon



This is a smilodon, a saber-toothed cat. They were not lions, tigers or lynxes, but cats of a different sort. Spots or stripes, who can say? Scan this to learn more about smilodon.



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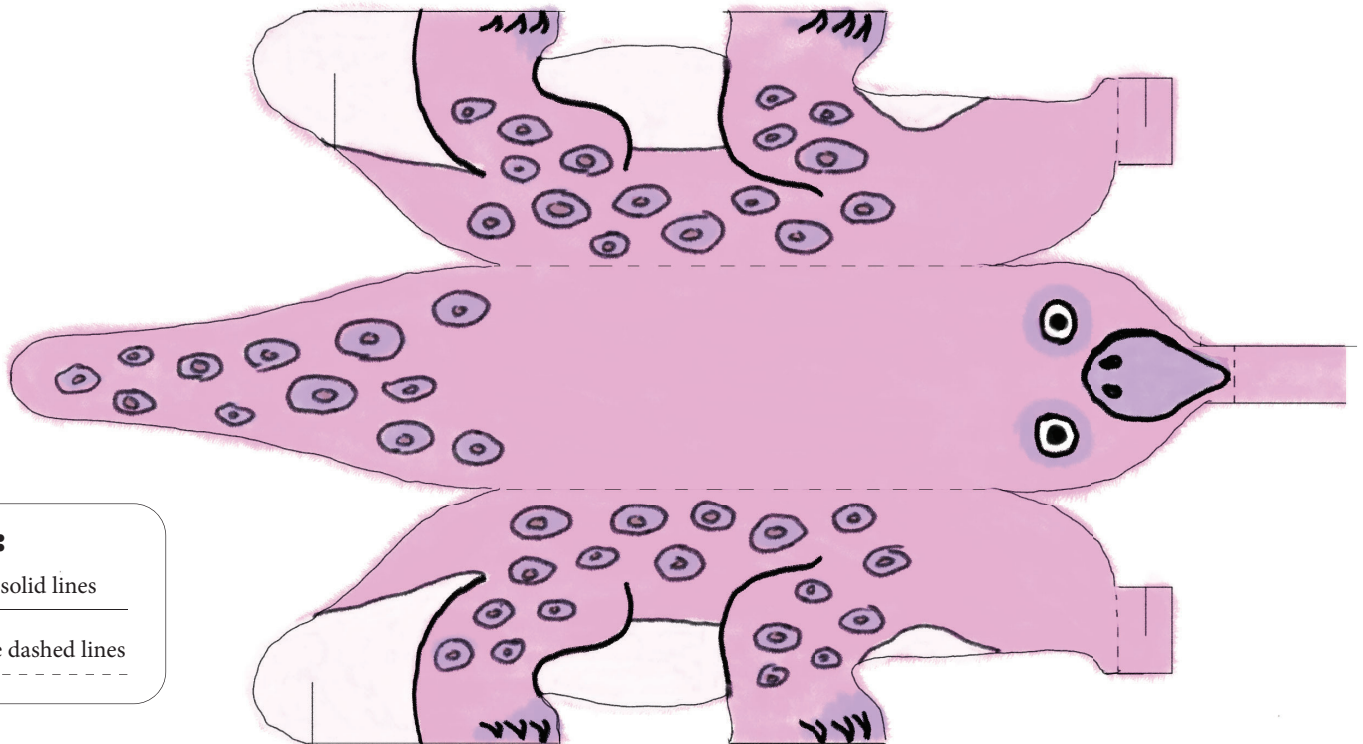
cut the solid lines

fold the dashed lines

Rhyncosaur



This is a rhyncosaur, an early dinosaur that lived over 200 million years ago. Where they purple? Did they have polka dots? Nobody knows! Scan this to learn more about rhyncosaurs.



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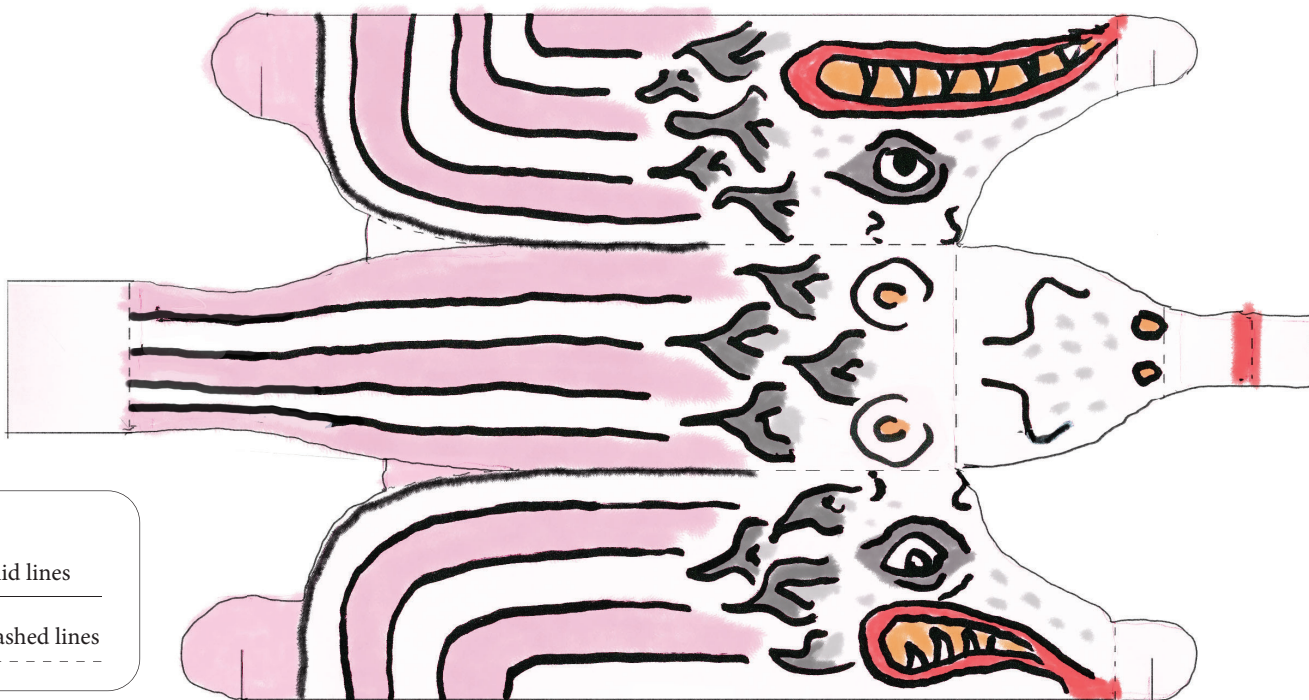
cut the solid lines

fold the dashed lines

Dragon



This is a dragon. It visits the Western Promenade every Tuesday morning. Its favorite food is ice cream. Scan this to learn more about dragons.



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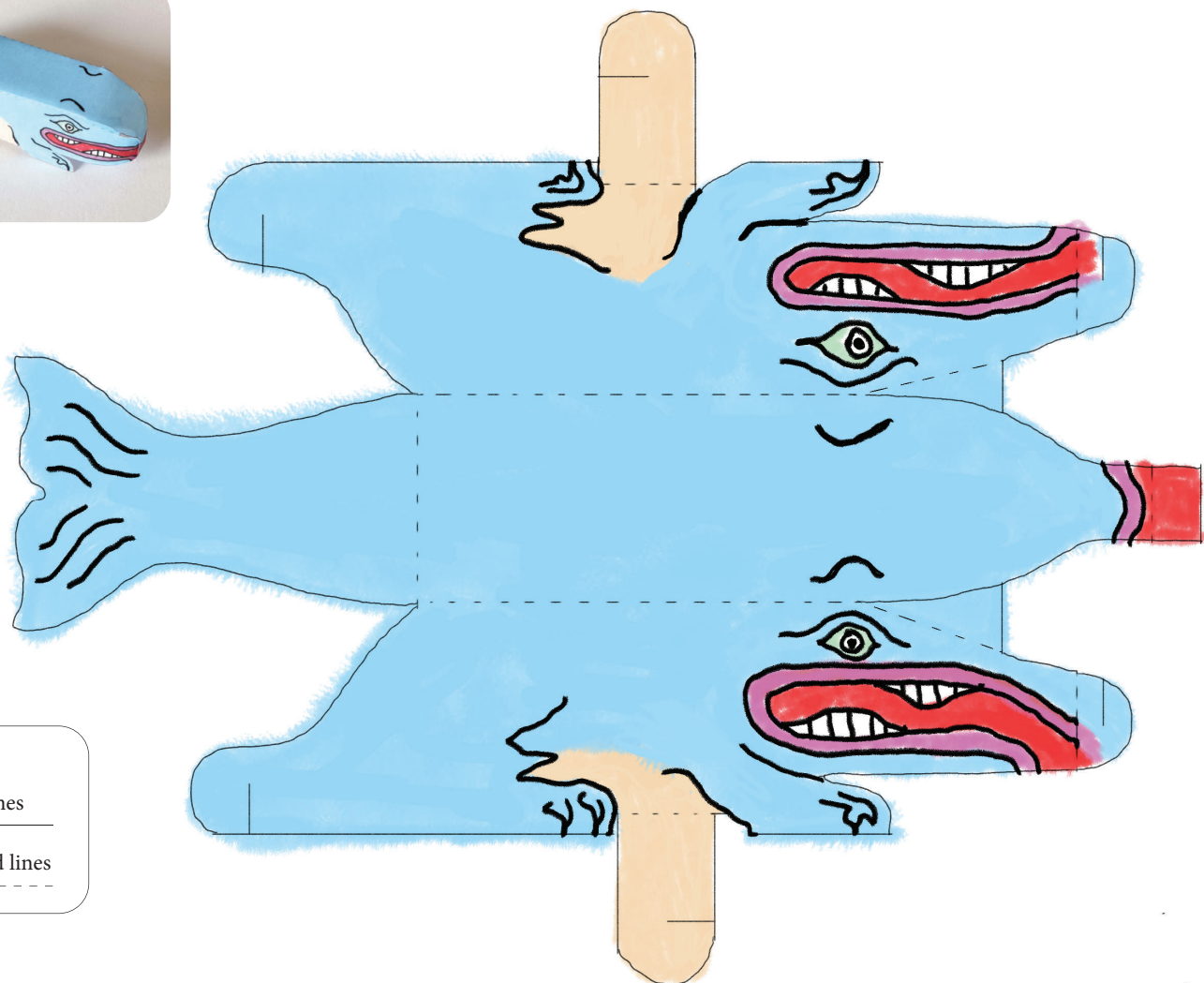
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Bob



Bob is a protocetid, an ancient ancestor of modern whales. About 60 million years ago, the ancestors of modern whales swam in coastal waters all around the world. Some of them also enjoyed long walks on the beach. Scan this to learn more about protocetids.



Key:

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CM 2023

CAROUSEL COSMOS

PORTLAND

ME