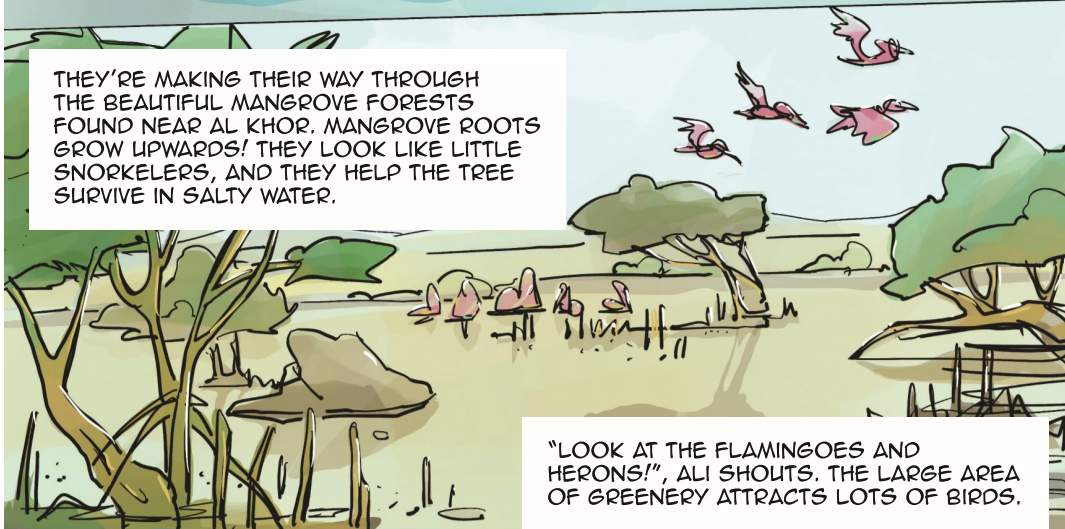




SARA AND ALI'S ECO-ADVENTURE

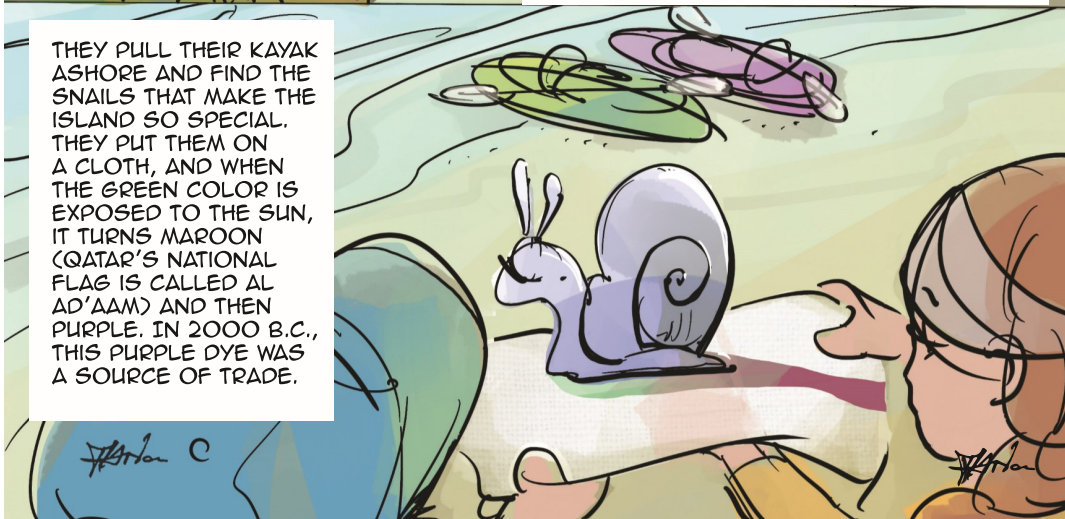


SARA AND ALI ARE PADDLING TOWARDS AL THAKHIRA (PURPLE ISLAND). THEY MOVE THEIR KAYAK FORWARD THROUGH THE SPARKLING WATERS.



THEY'RE MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL MANGROVE FORESTS FOUND NEAR AL KHOR. MANGROVE ROOTS GROW UPWARDS! THEY LOOK LIKE LITTLE SNORKELERS, AND THEY HELP THE TREE SURVIVE IN SALTY WATER.

"LOOK AT THE FLAMINGOES AND HERONS!", ALI SHOUTS. THE LARGE AREA OF GREENERY ATTRACTS LOTS OF BIRDS.



THEY PULL THEIR KAYAK ASHORE AND FIND THE SNAILS THAT MAKE THE ISLAND SO SPECIAL. THEY PUT THEM ON A CLOTH, AND WHEN THE GREEN COLOR IS EXPOSED TO THE SUN, IT TURNS MAROON (QATAR'S NATIONAL FLAG IS CALLED AL AD'AAM) AND THEN PURPLE. IN 2000 B.C., THIS PURPLE DYE WAS A SOURCE OF TRADE.

Conversation starter:

Did you know, in a harsh desert environment such as Qatar, mangroves are one of the few ecosystems able to sustain life during hot summer months? Why don't you visit the mangroves and send us a selfie? Don't forget to tag [#QatarReads!](#)

