

Several teal-colored brushstrokes of varying lengths and curves are scattered around the title, primarily on the left and right sides.

FACT OR FICTION

PROCESS BOOK BY CHASEY WANG

MYTHOLOGY • SCIENCE • DATA VISUALIZATION

This project explores the possibility of mermaids' existence, combining historical records, archaeological discoveries, scientific comparisons, and data visualizations to construct a perspective that blends myth and science.

AUDIENCE & CONTEXT

Targeted at curious young adults (18-30 years old), this project merges mythology and scientific perspectives to spark curiosity about the unknown, challenge conventional beliefs, and explore new possibilities.

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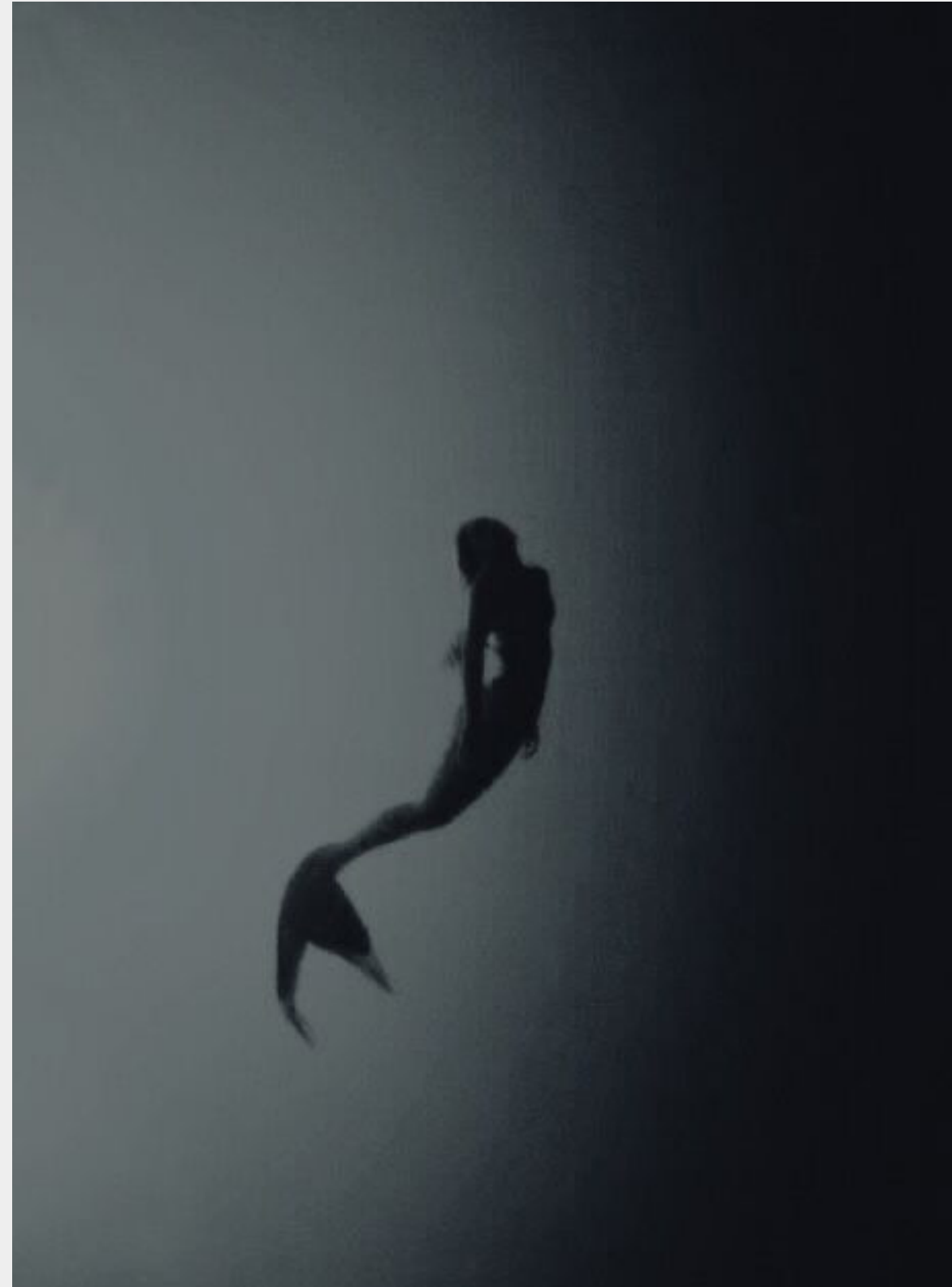
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Research & Analysis

Research

Young adults in this age range might love mythological stories with a bit of a “scientific” twist, as they bring together adventure and mystery. They’re often attracted to stories that question old beliefs and explore the unknown, tapping into their curiosity and love for discovery.



DATA POINT 1

1. 3000 BCE: Ancient Sumerian Mythology

Sumerian legends describe sea guardians with human upper bodies and fish tails, believed to be early depictions of mermaids.

2. 1000 BCE: Accounts from Phoenician Sailors

Phoenician sailors reported encounters with humanoid sea creatures with fish tails and enchanting voices in the Mediterranean, thought to be mermaids.

3. 1st Century CE: Roman Natural History

Pliny the Elder documented “Nereids” in Natural History, describing them as beings with both human and fish-like traits, frequently seen in certain seas.

4. 1493: Nordic Fishermen’s Sighting

Nordic fishermen claimed to have seen silver-tailed, human-like creatures in the northern seas, sparking widespread tales of “sea people.”

5. 1860: The “Mermaid Fossil” Discovery

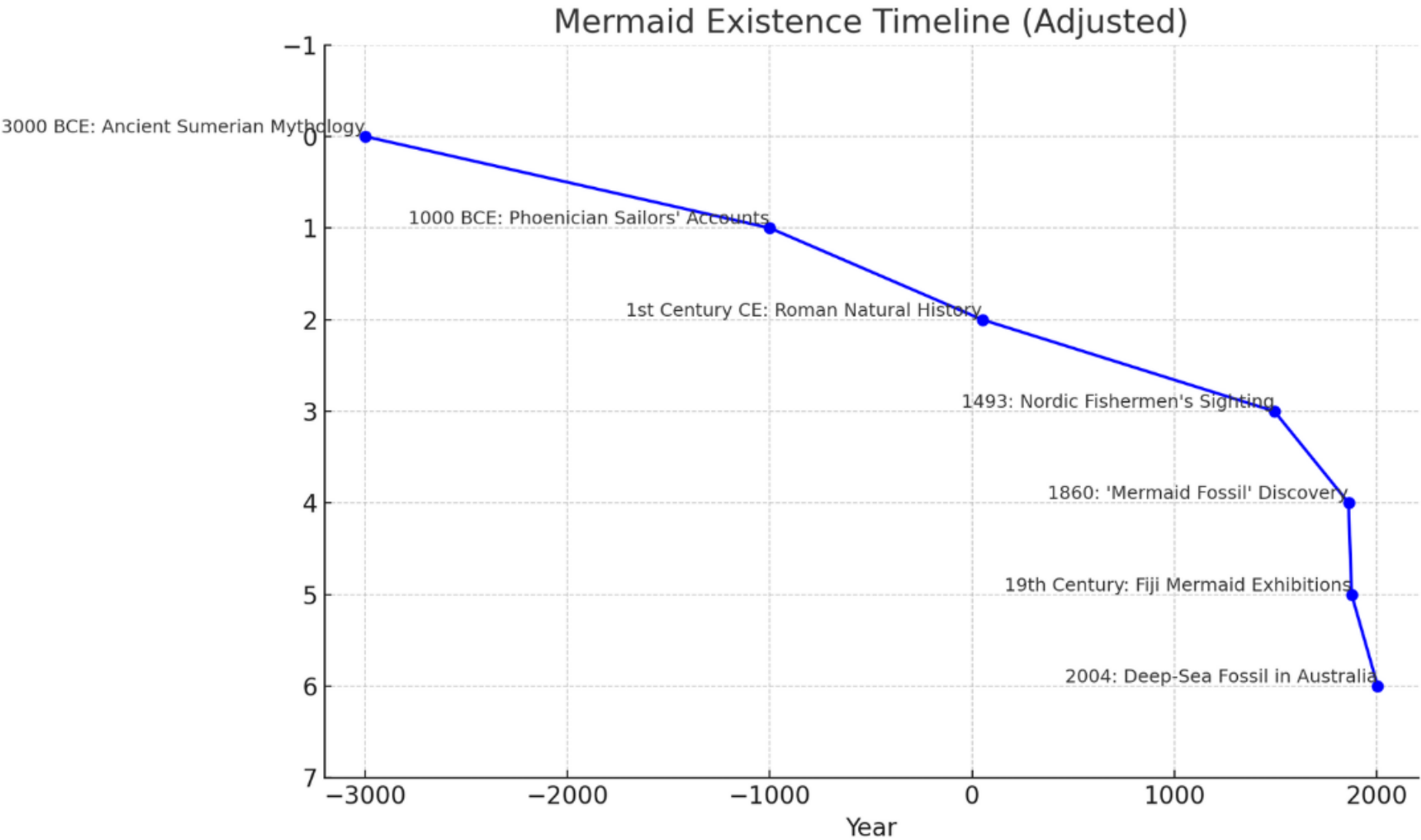
A Scottish fisherman discovered a fossil resembling a mermaid, with a fish tail and human-like skeletal structure, believed to validate longstanding legends.

6. 19th Century: Fiji Mermaid Exhibitions

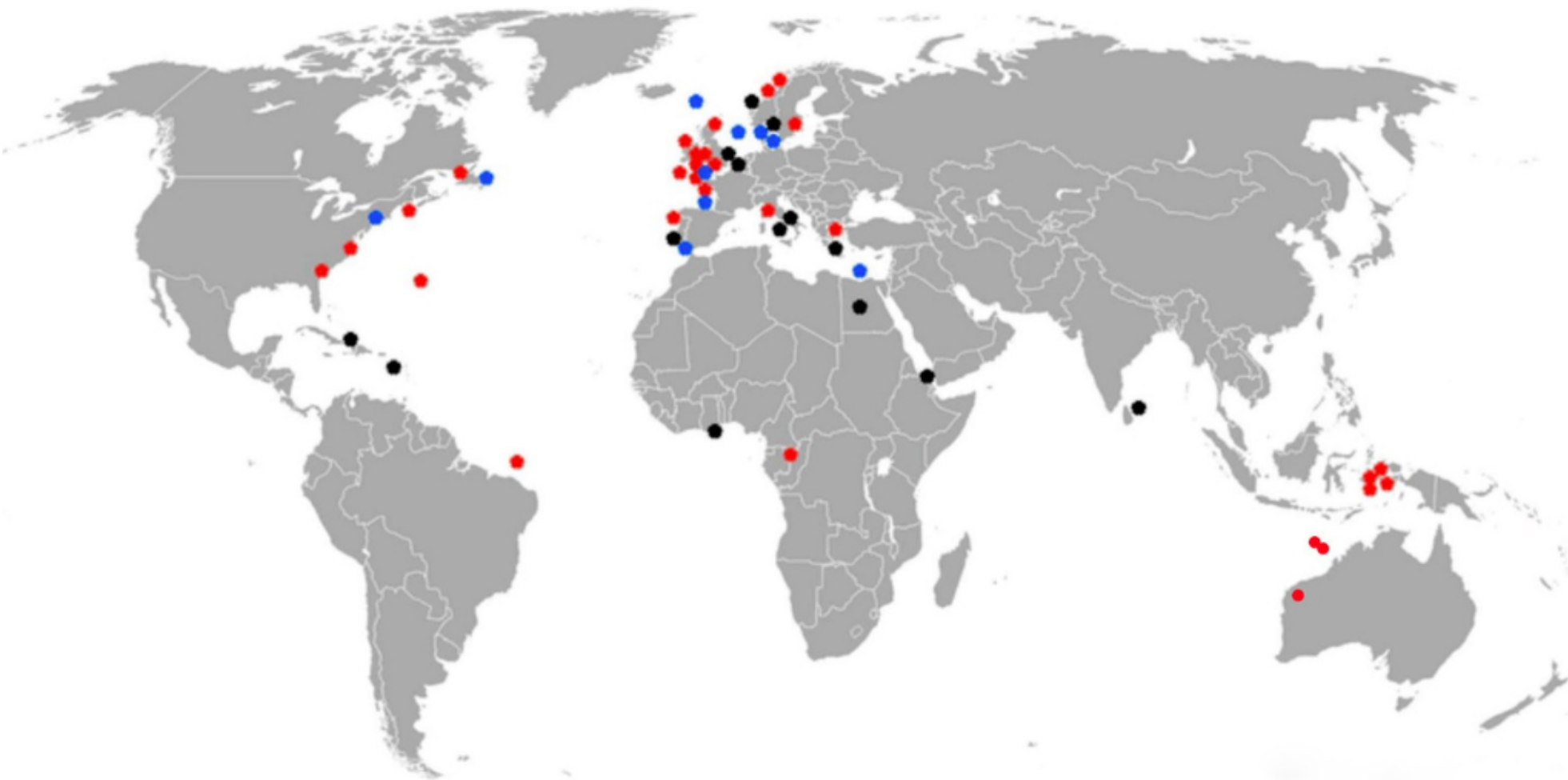
The Fiji Mermaid became a featured attraction around the world, showcasing various specimens of captured mermaids and drawing crowds from all over.

7. 2004: Deep-Sea Mermaid Fossil in Australia

Scientists discovered a complete mermaid fossil in Australia’s deep waters, featuring fin-like bones and a human-like skull, considered a significant proof of mermaids’ existence.



DATA POINT 2



MERMAID WORLD DISTRIBUTION MAP

Geographic Distribution Patterns:

Northern Europe and the Mediterranean: A high concentration of red and blue dots suggests many mermaid sightings in Northern Europe and the North Sea, likely linked to the region’s rich maritime history and medieval records.

Southeast Asia and Australia: The red dots here indicate that mermaid legends are common in tropical regions, possibly connected to local marine life and cultural stories.

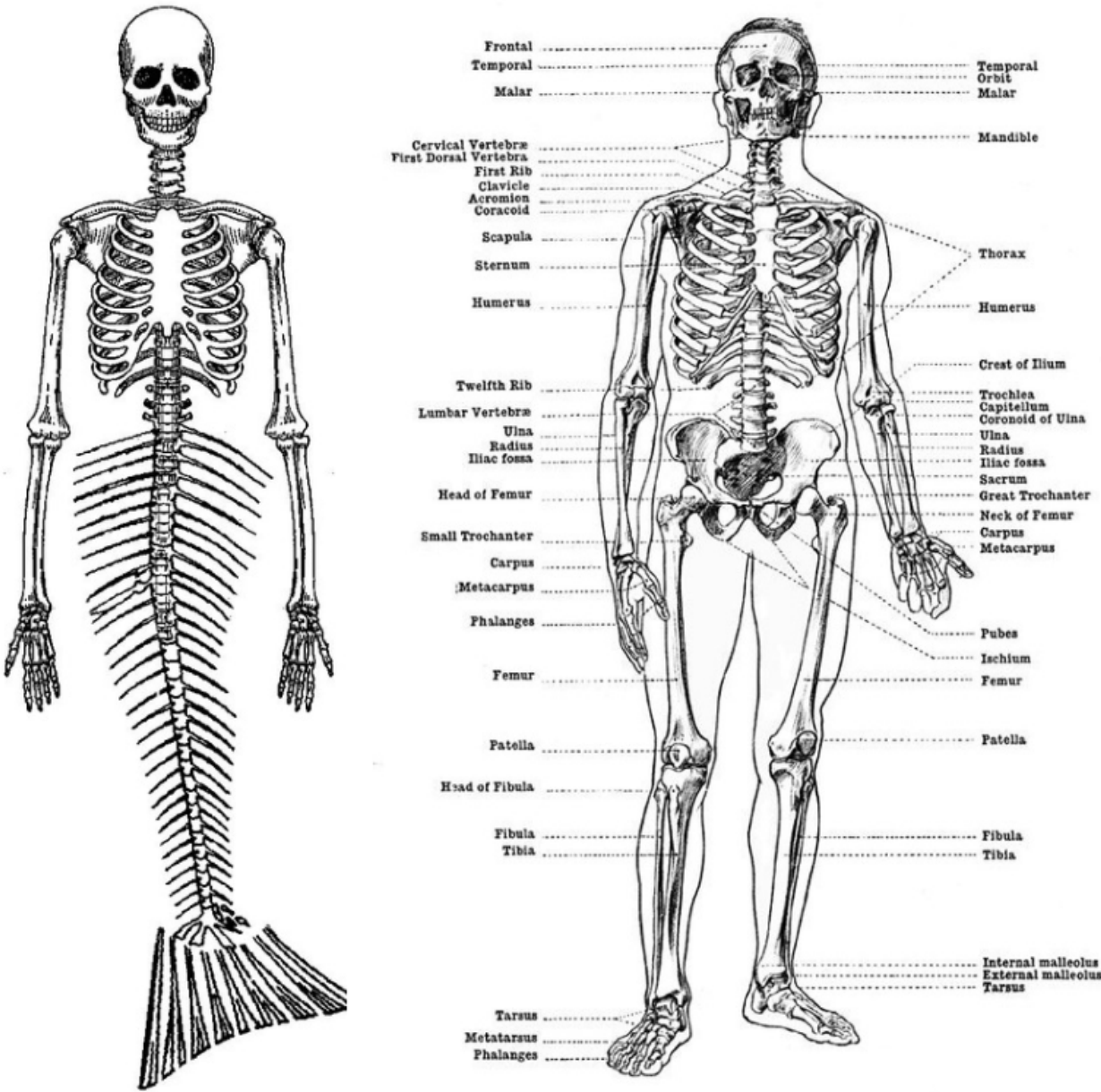
Atlantic Coast and the Americas: Blue and black dots along the coasts suggest mermaid sightings tied to early explorers’ reports and indigenous stories, potentially influenced by ocean currents.

DATA POINT 3

Skeleton Comparison Overview:

The chart highlights the differences between mermaid and human skeletons. Mermaids have a human-like upper body, but from the waist down, they have a fish-like tail, lacking human legs and feet. This contrast emphasizes the mermaid's half-human, half-fish nature.

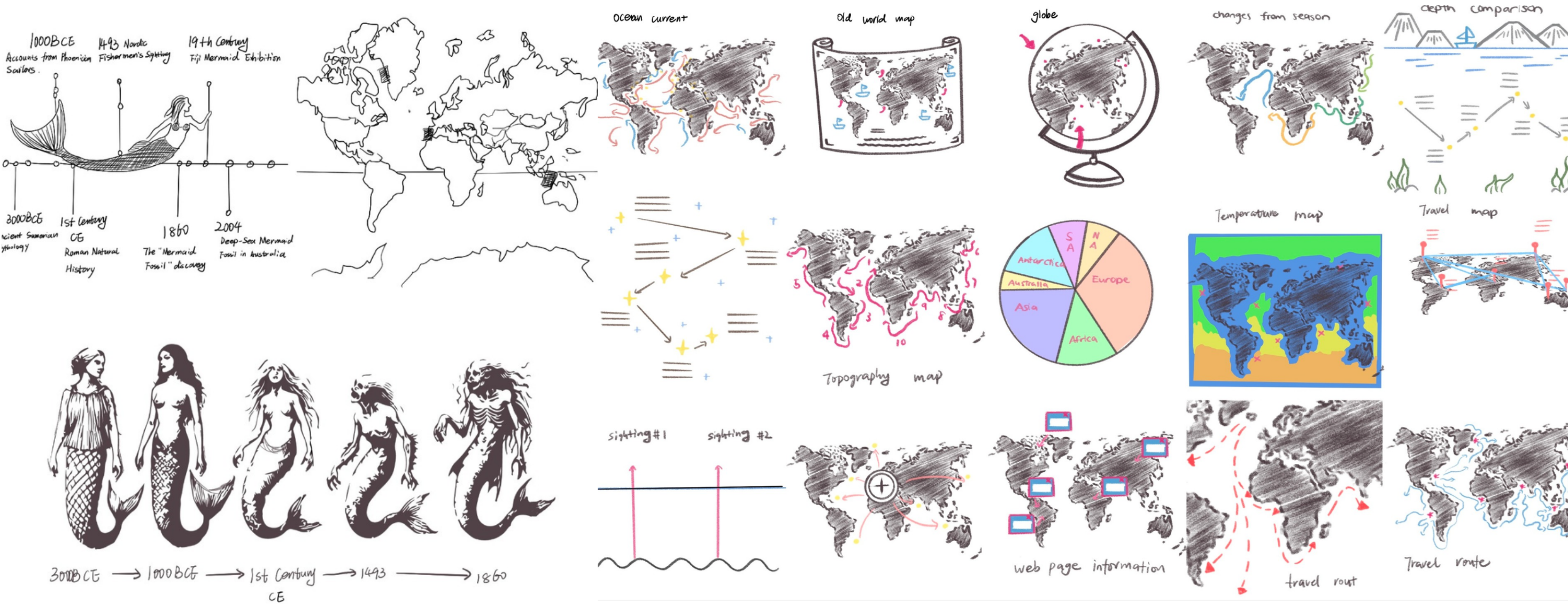
The tail structure suggests that mermaids are adapted to deep-sea environments, using their tail for swimming, which is fundamentally different from human bipedal movement.



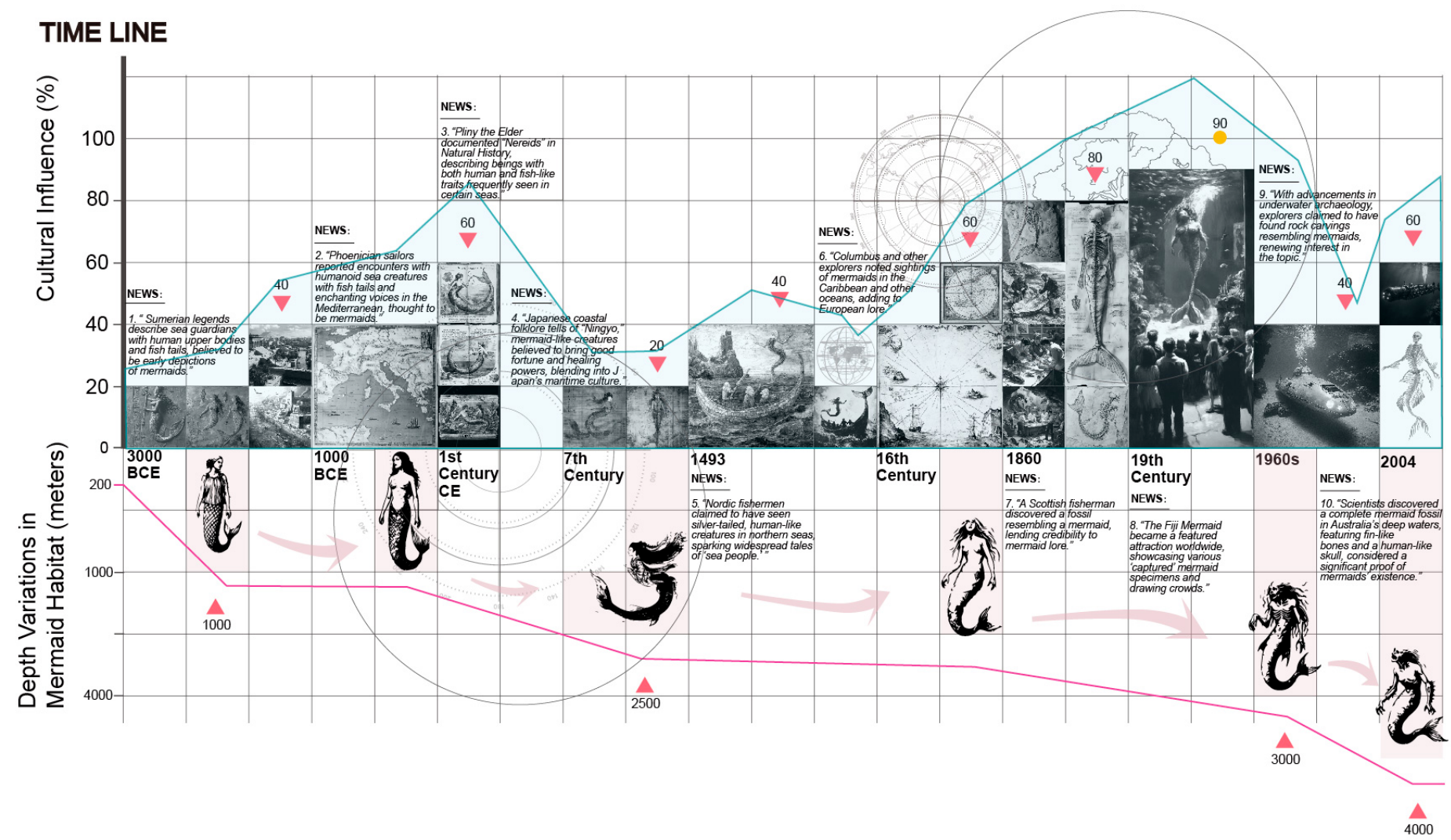
The text is surrounded by several teal-colored brushstroke-like marks. There are two marks on the left, one above and one below the text. On the right, there are three marks: one above, one in the middle, and one below. Above the text, there are three marks: one in the center, one to the right, and one further right. These marks vary in length and curvature, giving a hand-drawn feel.

Design Exploration

Sketch

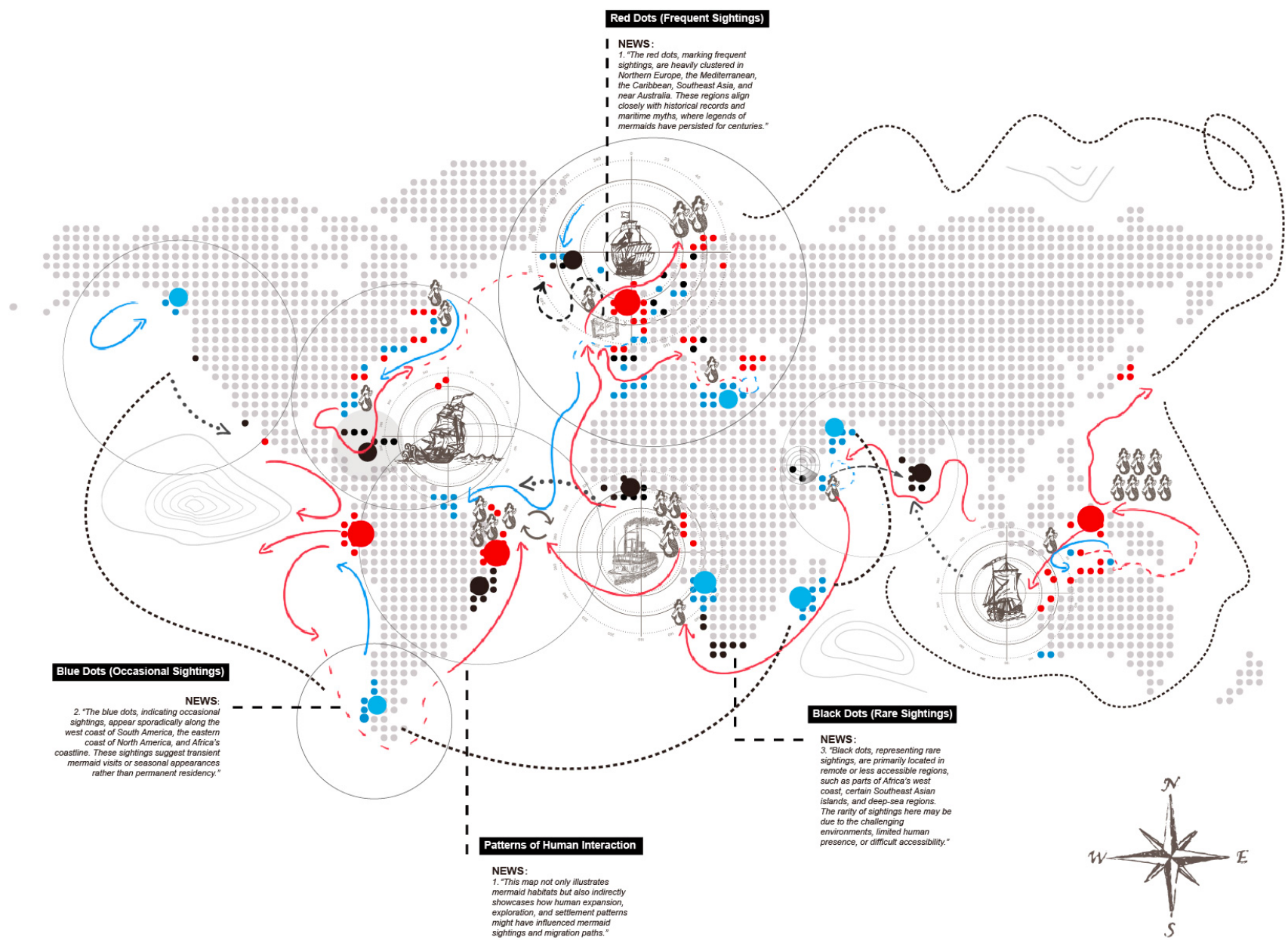


Concept For Timeline



This chart illustrates the cultural significance of mermaids alongside their possible living depths throughout history. It showcases how mermaid myths have evolved over time, allowing viewers to see their changing social impact and speculate on the depths they might inhabit. This visual invites people to reflect on the mystery and possible reality of mermaids in the ocean's depths.

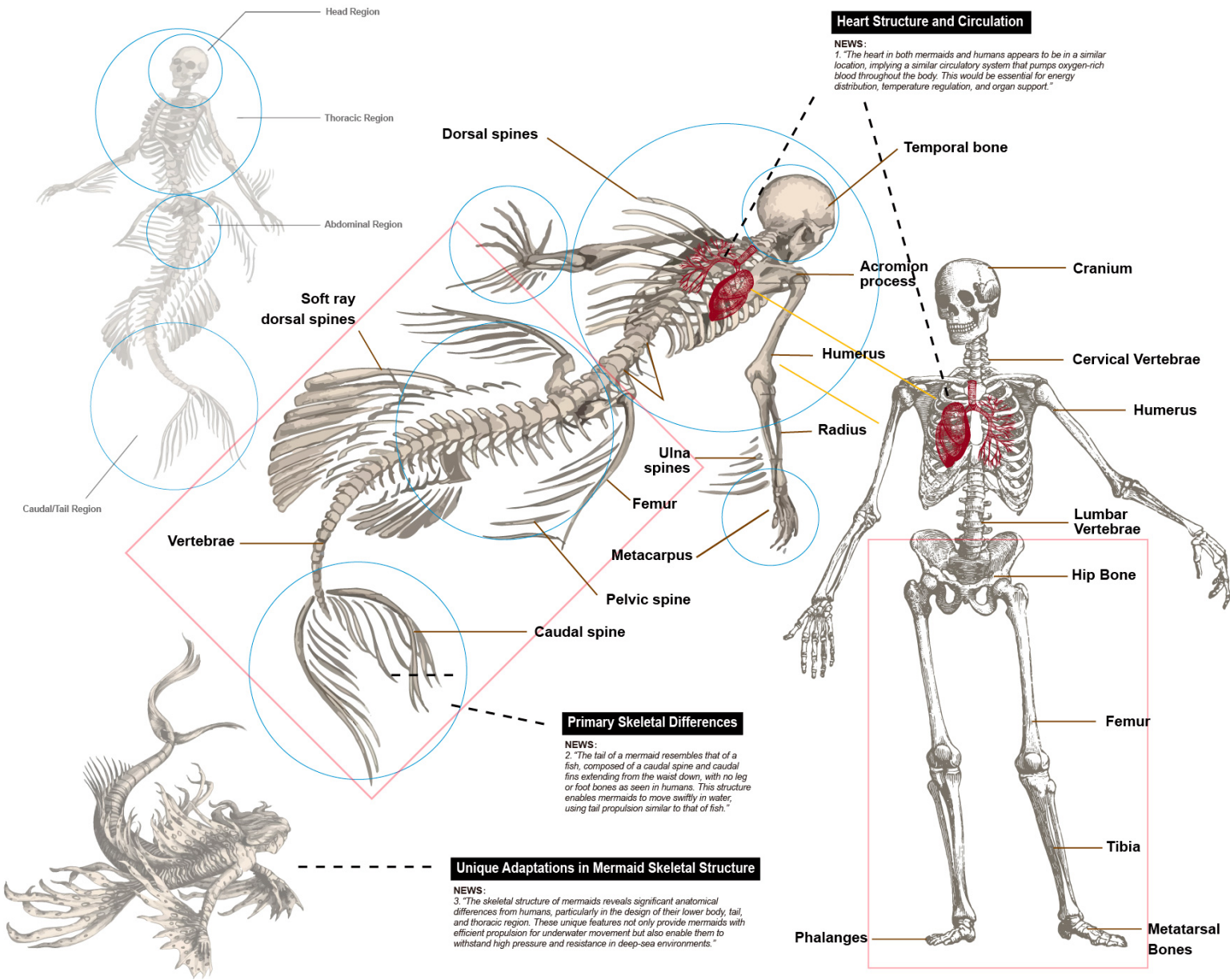
Concept For Migration Map



This migration map not only illustrates the possible routes of mermaid movement but also incorporates historical and cultural context, exploring their patterns of movement and sighting frequencies across different seas. Viewers can use this map to gain a deeper understanding of mermaid activity on a global scale and speculate on their potential migration habits, sparking curiosity and imagination about their way of life and existence.

Concept For skeleton

This diagram shows a detailed comparison between mermaid and human skeletons, highlighting how mermaids have unique adaptations that help them survive in the water. It helps viewers see how the idea of mermaids as “half-human, half-fish” creatures could make sense and shows the complexity of their structure.

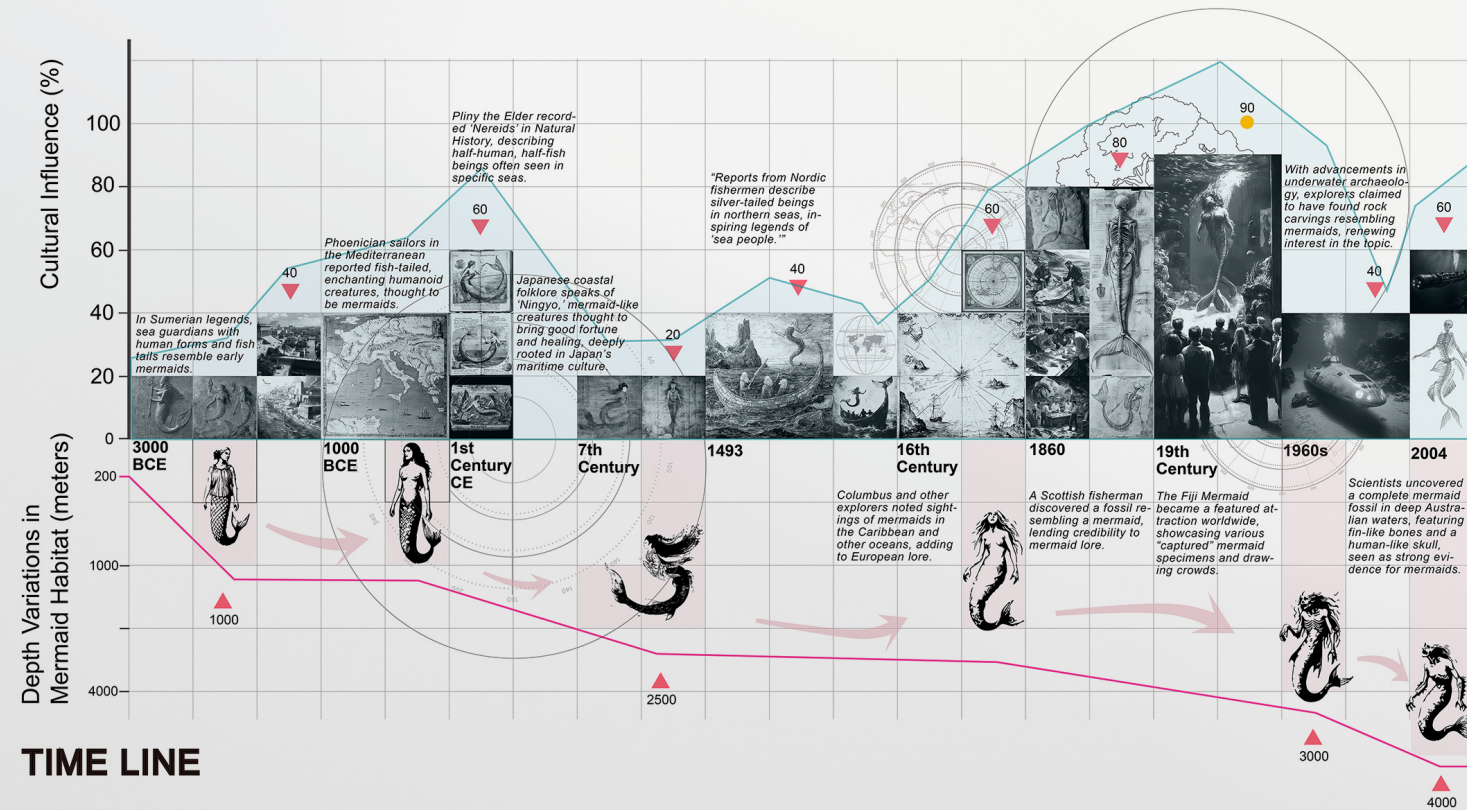


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Final Solution

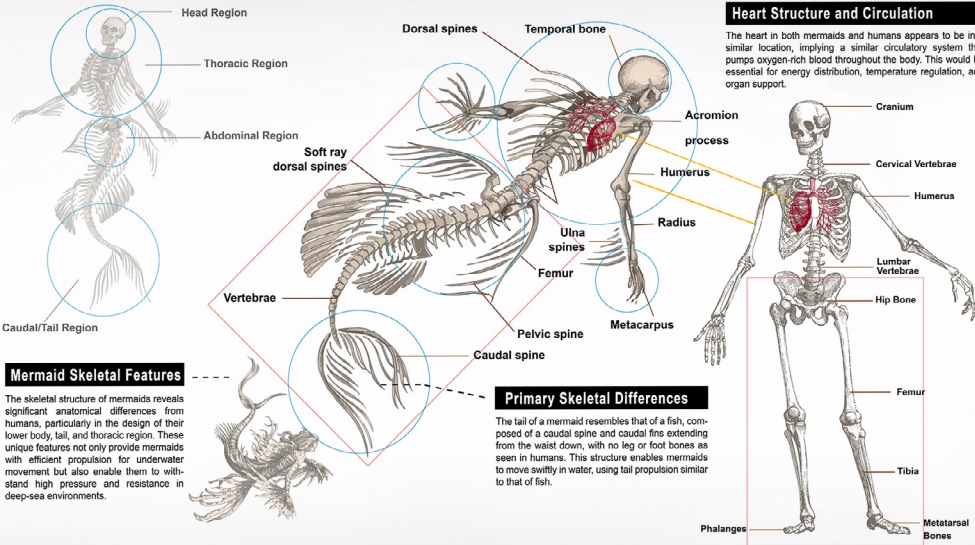
Mermaid Timeline

MERMAID EVENTS AND HABITAT DEPTH TIMELINE



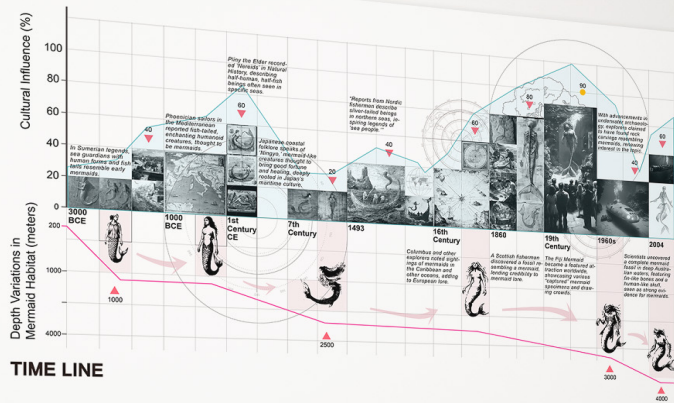
Mermaid vs. Human Skeletons

UNCOVERING THE EVIDENCE BEHIND THE EXISTENCE OF MERMAIDS



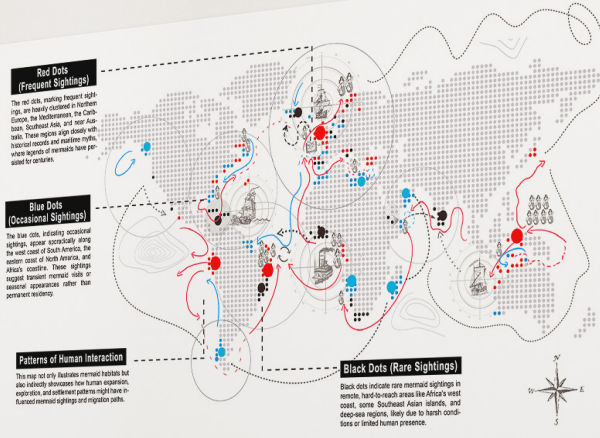
Mermaid Timeline

MERMAID EVENTS AND HABITAT DEPTH TIMELINE



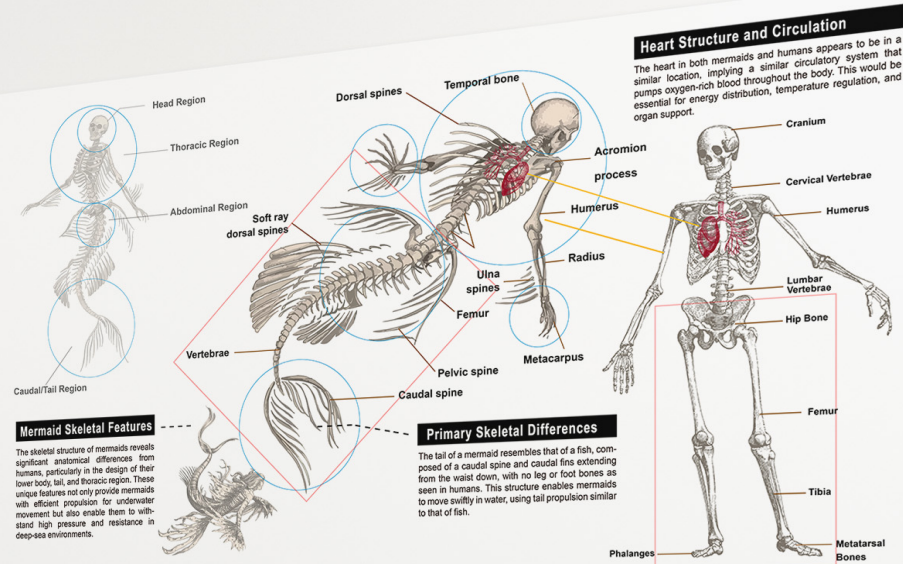
Mermaid Migration Route

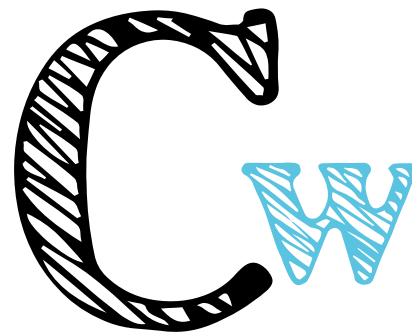
TRACING THE MIGRATION ROUTES OF MERMAIDS



Mermaid vs. Human Skeletons

UNCOVERING THE EVIDENCE BEHIND THE EXISTENCE OF MERMAIDS





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