

Name: Boone [REDACTED]

Grade: 6 Teachers: Curtis Taylor & Jane Spina

School: Harwood Union Remote Academy

How Plastics Affect Ocean Life

Imagine an ocean without fish, if we continue to let plastics get into our ocean, our ocean will stop thriving and look like a ghost town, many of the beautiful fish... dead. An average of 1 million marine animals die each year from plastics in the ocean. A clean ocean is essential for the life of the sea creatures. A clean ocean also provides beautiful views and swimming. One major problem facing our hydrosphere is plastics getting into the ocean. This is a big problem but there are many solutions to solve this problem.

One way ocean plastics get into the ocean is Littering. Garbage that is thrown onto the ground is swept into rivers and lakes by rain and wind, the rivers lead to the ocean. Some sea creatures die from not only swallowing the plastic but from the toxins that the plastics release into the water. Micro plastics are also a problem because they get into the ocean. Micro plastics can be found being used in products like toothpaste. Some marine life eat the micro plastics and the animals think they are full of food but they have no real food in them so they die. Single use plastics are also a problem to marine wildlife. Single use plastics are bad because they are only used once so there ends up being a lot of them. All these single use plastics help make up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is twice the size of Texas. Many sea creatures die from eating plastics off of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Also when these plastics soak up heat they release carbon dioxide which increases the temperature of the water forcing the sea creatures to go deeper down into the ocean which may affect their food chain and the fish might be affected and have adaptations to the deeper water.

Use items that can be reused. If you keep getting new things like plastic bags everyday by the end of the year you will have at least 250 plastic bags that just end up in places like the ocean. If you buy reusable bags, water bottles, or straws you will reduce the amount of plastic you use and if everyone does this there will be a tremendous drop in the amount of plastic getting into the ocean. Another solution is to support bans on single use plastic. If you help support bans on things like plastic grocery bags, there will be a lot less single use plastics that

make their way to the ocean. Also this simple strategy, cooking more, will help. You might wonder what cooking more will do, if you cook more it will reduce the amount of take out containers you use.

Plastics getting into our ocean is a big problem but there are many ways YOU can help reduce the amount of plastic that gets into our ocean. Help reduce the amount of plastics in our ocean and save many animals. It is very important for you to help because plastics are killing living things that are alive just like you. If we do not take action and help with this situation many of the innocent ocean animals will be dead. "Reuse it, do NOT produce it."

