

Name: McClaine [REDACTED]

Grade: 6

Teachers: Curtis Taylor & Jane Spina

School: Harwood Union Remote Academy

## Polluting Oceans with Plastics

Sylvia Earle once said, "No water, no life. No blue, no green." Water is the beginning of life. 97% of Earth's water is salt water and many animals call the ocean their home. The ocean absorbs 50 times as much carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. It is important for human and animal life to take care of our oceans. One of the issues facing our hydrosphere is plastics in our oceans. Even though this is a major problem there are many ways to help or solve it.

Ocean plastics are affecting many parts of the ecosystem. Humans use plastic for many things in life. For example plastic cups, straws and many other things we didn't even think had plastic in them. This is a problem because either we don't recycle the plastics or we just throw them on the ground. Something else that is happening is that when an animal eats its prey they are also swallowing micro plastics that are in the ocean. This is a problem because animals are dying because of the micro plastics and that is affecting the whole ecosystem. The ocean absorbs 50 times as much carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. That means that if we don't do something to save our oceans from being polluted by plastic the earth is barely going to have any winter and it will be a lot warmer than it already is.

There are many solutions for plastics in the ocean. One solution is using reusable plastics like reusable cups, plates and silverware. This would help because if you used reusable plastics these things wouldn't get thrown away into the ocean. Another solution to this problem would be recycling. You can recycle many things. Recycling would also help because it would prevent plastics from being dumped in the oceans. Scientists are also creating another solution. They are creating floating trash collectors. This may not be one way you could help but it is definitely a way that scientists are trying to help. Trash collectors are helping solve this problem because they float in the ocean and clean up the trash that is there. When it cleans up the trash it is helping because animals wouldn't eat or get stuck in the plastic and other items that are getting dumped in the ocean.

There are many issues with plastics being dumped into the ocean. But there are still lots of different solutions to this problem. I hope you learned a lot about the problem that there are plastics in the ocean and about the many ways we can solve it. It is important to take care of our oceans because the ocean makes over half of the earth's oxygen and it covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface. That means that over half of the Earth's surface is water. Without the ocean the earth would be very warm and it would not be a fun planet to live on. Protect our

oceans to save our future.

