

The Plastic Sea

Today, we are going to talk about the plastic that is in the sea.

In fact, there is a lot of plastic floating around in the sea. Unbelievable amounts of the stuff are now found in all of the world's oceans. This includes: plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic drinking straws and plastic cigarette ends.

The plastic in the sea is eaten by fish who eat the tiny particles of plastic that are like pieces of confetti. The fish die of starvation as they cannot digest the plastic filling their stomachs.

Can you imagine eating a fish that died because it ate plastic? How many fish have you eaten that ate plastic? It is a terrifying thought, eh?

It is a worrying trend the sheer amount of plastic that has made its way into the ocean. All of it has been generated by man and what is man doing about it? Largely nothing! He doesn't care.

Millions of tonnes of plastic have entered the ocean over the last 30 to 40 years. Global production of plastic is around 288 million tonnes per year. Around 10% of this ends up in the world's oceans.

The plastic is carried by currents and congregates in five revolving water systems, called gyres, in the major oceans. The most famous of these is the huge Pacific Garbage Patch that is located halfway between Hawaii and California.

The concentration of plastic in these gyres is high. Some call it a plastic soup. It is spread over an area twice the size of Texas, so that's a big area, right? What's more, plastic doesn't stay in one spot – it rotates, making the possibility of cleaning it up challenging!

So how to clean up this gigantic mess of plastic? That's the question you might like to think about!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things that are made from plastic. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the ocean.
- 2) Where are Hawaii, California and Texas?
- 3) Draw on a map showing where the US states Hawaii, California and Texas are located.
- 4) What is a worrying trend?
- 5) Explain the term 'plastic soup'.

Student B questions

- 1) What is a gyre?
- 2) What is confetti?
- 3) Name three types of plastic objects in the article.
- 4) What is the Pacific Garbage Patch? Draw a map on the board to show where it is located in the world.
- 5) What is garbage?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with 'The Plastic Sea.' *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Choose three things made of plastic you used this week. Write them below. Discuss together. What did you do with the plastic when you had finished with it?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three things made of plastic you might also use. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WRITING / SPEAKING / DRAWING

As a class - On the board draw a map of the Pacific Ocean and land area around it. Add the Pacific Garbage Patch on it. Where might the plastic come from most? If you are not sure Google it all!) Talk about it! *3 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to hear their findings.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you do with your plastic?
- 3) Should there be more recycling of plastic?
- 4) What should man do to help protect the oceans?
- 5) Is the level of plastic in the oceans dangerous?
- 6) How can you help make the dangers of plastic in oceans be reduced?
- 7) How do turtles survive in a sea of plastic?
- 8) How do birds like albatrosses survive in the ocean when there is a lot of plastic?
- 9) What are governments doing to clean up the oceans?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the ABC Australia TV studio in Sydney. Today's interview is: *The Plastic Sea. 10 mins.*

- 1) A Green campaigner.
- 2) A luxury cruise ship captain.
- 3) A Pacific island government spokesperson on plastic waste.
- 4) A fisherman in the Pacific Ocean.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a Green campaigner. *Student B* is a student who is into recycling. Start a conversation about tackling the plastic that is dumped in the oceans. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Think of as many ways as you can to help clean up the plastic in the oceans and on land and how to dispose of plastic safely!

Google it all!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Can you imagine eating a fish which ate particles of plastic?
- 3) What is man doing about all the plastic in the oceans?
- 4) An area twice the size of Texas in the ocean that is entirely plastic is something we should be concerned about, surely?
- 5) Are you a green campaigner?
- 6) So, how to clean up this gigantic mess of plastic in the oceans?
- 7) How does plastic end up in the ocean?
- 8) What does your country do with its plastic?
- 9) How would you clean up the oceans of plastic?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

The Plastic Sea

Today, we are going to talk about the (1)___ that is in the sea. In fact, there is a lot of plastic floating around in the sea. Unbelievable amounts of the (2)___ are now found in all of the world's (3)___. This includes: plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic drinking straws and plastic cigarette ends.

The plastic in the sea is eaten by fish who eat the tiny particles of plastic that are like pieces of (4)__. The fish die of (5)___ as they cannot digest the plastic filling their (6)___.

Can you imagine eating a fish that died because it ate plastic? How many fish have you eaten that ate plastic? It is a terrifying thought, eh?

It is a worrying (7)___ the (8)___ amount of plastic that has made its way into the ocean. All of it has been generated by man and what is man doing about it? Largely nothing! He doesn't care.

stomachs / sheer / confetti / trend / plastic / starvation / oceans / stuff

Millions of tonnes of plastic have entered the ocean over the last 30 to 40 years. (1)___ production of plastic is around 288 million (2)___ per year. Around 10% of this ends up in the world's oceans.

The plastic is carried by currents and congregates in five revolving water systems, called gyres, in the (3)___ oceans. The most famous of these is the huge Pacific (4)___ Patch that is located halfway between Hawaii and California.

The (5)___ of plastic in these gyres is high. Some call it a plastic soup. It is spread over an (6)___ twice the size of Texas, so that's a big area, right? What's more, plastic doesn't stay in one spot - it rotates, making the (7)___ of cleaning it up challenging!

So how to clean up this (8)___ mess of plastic? That's the question you might like to think about!

concentration / tonnes / major / gigantic / possibility / global / garbage / area

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The Plastic Sea

Today, (1)___ are going to talk about the plastic that is in the sea. (2)___ fact, there is a lot of plastic floating around in the sea. Unbelievable amounts of the stuff are now found in all of the world's oceans. This includes: plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic drinking straws and plastic cigarette ends.

The plastic in the sea is eaten (3)___ fish who eat the tiny particles of plastic that are like pieces of confetti. The fish die (4)___ starvation (5)___ they cannot digest the plastic filling their stomachs.

Can you imagine eating a fish that died because it ate plastic? How many fish have you eaten that ate plastic? It is (6)___ terrifying thought, eh?

It is a worrying trend the sheer amount of plastic that has made its way into the ocean. All of it has been generated by man and what is man doing about (7)___? Largely nothing! (8)___ doesn't care.

it / we / as / by / he / of / in / a

Millions of tonnes of plastic have entered the ocean over the last 30 to 40 years. Global production of plastic is around 288 million tonnes per year. Around 10% of (1)___ ends up in the world's oceans.

The plastic is carried by currents and congregates in five revolving water systems, called gyres, in the major oceans. The (2)___ famous of (3)___ is the huge Pacific Garbage Patch (4)___ is located halfway between Hawaii and California.

The concentration of plastic in these gyres is high. (5)___ call it a plastic soup. It is spread over an area twice the size of Texas, so that's a big area, right? (6)___'s (7)___, plastic doesn't stay in one spot - it rotates, making the possibility of cleaning it up challenging!

So how to clean up this gigantic mess of plastic? That's the question you (8)___ like to think about!

might / some / these / this / more / that / most / what

GAP FILL: LISTENING

The Plastic Sea

Today, we are going to talk about the plastic that is in the sea. In fact, there is a lot of _____ in the sea. Unbelievable _____ are now found in all of the world's oceans. This includes: plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic drinking straws and _____. The plastic in the sea is eaten by fish who eat tiny particles of plastic that are like pieces of confetti. The fish _____ they cannot digest the plastic filling their stomachs.

Can you imagine eating a fish that died because it ate plastic? How many fish have you eaten that ate plastic? It is _____, eh?

It is a worrying trend the sheer amount of plastic that has made its way into the ocean. All of it has

been generated by man and what is man doing about it? Largely nothing! He doesn't care.

Millions of tonnes of plastic have entered the ocean over the last 30 to 40 years. _____ plastic is around 288 million tonnes per year. Around 10% of this ends up in the world's oceans. The plastic is carried by _____ in five revolving water systems, called gyres, in the major oceans. The most famous of these is the huge Pacific Garbage Patch that is located halfway between Hawaii and California. The _____ in these gyres is high. Some call it a plastic soup. It is spread over an area _____, so that's a big area, right? What's more, plastic doesn't stay in one spot – it rotates, making the possibility of cleaning it up challenging! So how to clean up this gigantic mess of plastic? That's the question you _____ about!

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WRITING/SPELLING

1) On the board - In pairs / As a class - write down **20 different things made of plastic that you might find in the Pacific Ocean.** Talk about them all! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The plastic _____
- 2) Plastic _____
- 3) Fish _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Plastic Sea.** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) plastic
- 2) stuff
- 3) oceans
- 4) confetti
- 5) starvation
- 6) stomachs
- 7) trend
- 8) sheer

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) ocean
- 2) plastic
- 3) currents
- 4) gyres
- 5) major
- 6) famous
- 7) these
- 8) garbage
- 9) Pacific
- 10) concentration

ANSWERS

- 1) global
- 2) tonnes
- 3) major
- 4) garbage
- 5) concentration
- 6) area
- 7) possibility
- 8) gigantic

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) gigantic
- 12) might
- 13) unbelievable
- 14) stuff
- 15) cigarette
- 16) starvation
- 17) cannot
- 18) stomachs
- 19) terrifying
- 20) thought

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