

A boat with a difference

The *Plastiki* looks to many other boats in Sydney Harbour. It's eighteen meters long, six meters , and it weighs about twelve thousand kilograms. It carries a crew of six people and has an speed of five knots.¹ However, once you get near the *Plastiki*, you realize there's a big difference: It's made of twelve thousand five hundred reused

How did the *Plastiki* begin?

- David de Rothschild is an who has crossed Antarctica and explored the Ecuadorian Amazon. One day, he was reading some about all the plastic in the seas and oceans. He couldn't believe what he was reading. For example, humans four out of every five plastic bottles they use, and plastic trash causes about eighty of the pollution in the ocean. In addition, scientists think that around one million seabirds die every year from plastic. De Rothschild decided he wanted to get involved in the fight against ocean pollution. To help more people understand the problem, he started building a boat made of plastic bottles.



- 2 Read the article and complete the fact file with numbers about the *Plastiki*.



The *Plastiki* in facts & figures

Number of crew: ¹ _____

Number of plastic bottles: ² _____

Length: ³ _____ m

Width: ⁴ _____ m

Weight: about ⁵ _____ kg

Average speed: ⁶ _____ knots

Distance covered: over ⁷ _____ km

Number of days at sea: ⁸ _____

Designing the *Plastiki*

- In addition to the boat with recycled plastic, it was important to make the boat environmentally and user-friendly. The boat uses renewable energy, such as wind power and solar energy. The crew can make meals with vegetables from the small garden at the back of the boat. They can take a break from work and get some by using the special exercise bicycle. The energy from the bike power for the boat's computers. And if anyone needs to take a shower, the boat's shower uses from the ocean.

The journey

- De Rothschild sailed the *Plastiki* across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Sydney. That's more than fifteen thousand kilometers. On the way, he took the special boat through the "Great Garbage Patch." This is a huge area in the Pacific with 3.5 kilograms of trash. You can see every kind of human trash here, but the worst problem is the plastic. It kills birds and ocean life.

How well did the *Plastiki* survive the journey?

- The journey wasn't always easy, and de Rothschild and his crew had to take care during . There were giant ocean waves, and winds of over one hundred kilometers per hour. The journey took one hundred and twenty-nine days. Originally, de Rothschild thought the boat could only travel once, but it lasted so well that he is planning to sail it again one day.

Critical thinking reading closely

- 3 Read the sentences (1–6). Circle the correct option for each sentence.

T = The sentence is **true**. The information is in the text.
 F = The sentence is **false**. The information is in the text.
 NG = We don't know if it's true or false. The information is **not given** in the text.

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|--|---|---|----|
| 1 The <i>Plastiki</i> is made of the same material as other boats. | T | F | NG |
| 2 Humans recycle most of their plastic bottles. | T | F | NG |
| 3 Plastic in the ocean is killing animals. | T | F | NG |
| 4 The <i>Plastiki</i> is environmentally friendly. | T | F | NG |
| 5 The size of the "Great Garbage Patch" is growing. | T | F | NG |
| 6 The journey took longer than de Rothschild had planned. | T | F | NG |