Plastic pollution in the oceans

A BBC team has filmed disturbing footage of the devastating impact plastic pollution is having on seabirds in the Tasman Sea, which is between Australia and New Zealand. The film crew was working on the remote Lord Howe Island for a new wildlife documentary called "Drowning in Plastic". They filmed many birds that had died because their stomachs were literally too full of plastic to be able to eat any food. The birds starved to death because there was no space in their stomachs for food. The documentary team filmed marine biologists working on the island to try and save the birds. The scientists captured hundreds of chicks and physically removed plastic from their stomachs to give them a chance of survival.

Marine biologist Jennifer Lavers explained what was happening to the birds. She said the birds were predators that will eat anything. She said: "When you put plastic in the ocean, it means they have no ability to detect plastic form non-plastic, so they eat it." Adult birds feed the plastic to their chicks, oblivious to what they are feeding them. Professor Lavers lamented that most of the plastic is "entirely preventable". She said: "We find plastic clothes pegs and plastic tooth brushes. Those could easily be swapped out for other materials - aluminium or wood. My own toothbrush is made of bamboo." TV presenter Liz Bonnin said: "We saw...90 pieces of plastic come out of one of the chicks."

1. Read the text above and choose the correct answer.

1) What agency made the documentary?
a) CNN made the documentary
b) BBC made the documentary
c) National Geographics made the documentary
d) Disney made the documentary

2) What is the name of the island the documentary was filmed on?
a) The name of the island is Lord Ham
b) The name of the island is Lord Halifax
c) The name of the island is Lord Huron
d) The name of the island is Lord Howe

3) What is the name of the documentary?
a) The documentary is called Drowning in Plastic
b) The name of the documentary is Plastic for Dinner
c) The documentary is called Plastic Death
d) The name of the documentary is Plastic Birds

4) What kind of scientists did the documentary team film?
a) ornithologists
b) zoologists
c) marine biologists
d) plasticologists

5) How many chicks did the scientists capture?
a) dozens
b) hundreds
c) thousands
d) 99

6) What kind of creature did a scientist say the birds were?
a) beautiful
b) streamlined
c) predators
d) endangered

7) What can't the sea birds detect?
a) Sea birds can't detect danger
b) Sea birds can't detect storms
c) Sea birds can't detect fish
d) Sea birds can't detect plastic

8) What two things did a scientist say she found?
a) They found clothes pegs and toothbrushes
b) They found Lego blocks and straws
c) They found water bottles and pens
d) They found DVDs and CDs

9) What is the scientist's toothbrush made of?
a) bamboo
b) aluminium
c) wood
d) carbon

10) How many pieces of plastic did a TV presenter find in a chick?
a) She found 80 pieces of plastic
b) She found 90 pieces of plastic
c) She found 70 pieces of plastic
d) She found 50 pieces of plastic

2. Walk around your house and make a list of all the plastic objects you find. Then think which of those can become plastic pollutants when you dispose of them and make another list.

Plastic objects in my house	Plastic objects in my house	Plastic pollutants in my house

3. Survey time: Ask your family and friends about prohibiting all plastic. How many of there are in favour and how many against.

In favour of prohibiting all plastics	Against of prohibiting all plastics

4. What alternatives are there to using plastic for these things? Do you think it is easy or difficult to replace them.

Plastic object	Easy	Difficult	Alternative materials
Pen			
Toothbrush			
Bottle			
Toys			
Straws			
Glitter			
Cuttlery			

5. ***Order these objects from top to bottom accordingly to the level of pollution they cause.***

Bowls	1 the most pollutant	
Car interiors	2	
Chairs	3	
CDs/DVDs	4	
Pipes	5	
Straws	6	
Toothbrushes	7	
Water bottles	8 the least pollutant	

6. Read the text and say if the sentences below 1-8 are true (T) or false (F).

1. A documentary about seabirds was made by National Geographic. **T / F**
2. The documentary looked at sea birds on Australia's east coast. **T / F**
3. The documentary is called "Drowning in Plastic". **T / F**
4. The researchers could not remove the plastic from the chicks' stomachs. **T / F**
5. The birds in the documentary were not predators. **T / F**
6. The seabirds did not know whether or not what they ate was plastic. **T / F**
7. A scientist said she used a bamboo and not a plastic toothbrush. **T / F**
8. A TV presenter counted 90 pieces of plastic in a chick's stomach. **T / F**