A Boyan Slat has a goal in life - to clean up the world's oceans. He was [ ] by an early experience, one that had a [ ] impact on him. 'I first became aware of the plastic pollution problem when diving in Greece, coming [ ] more plastic bags than fish,' explains the Dutch-born [ ] I wondered, why can't we clean this up?'



B Over the last half-century millions of tonnes of plastic have concentrated in five 'gyres', areas such as the Pacific Garbage Patch, a plastic soup stretching for millions of square kilometres. [ ] wisdom suggested the use of nets, but that would cost billions of dollars and take thousands of years to complete. Not only that, but emissions from ships would likely [ ] out the benefits to the environment.

[ ] up by the problem, eventually Slat came up with a [ ] idea: 'I thought, why move through the oceans, if the oceans can move through you?' His innovative design involved constructing floating barriers which would collect [ ] for recycling whilst allowing sea life to swim underneath, all powered by naturally occurring ocean currents. The idea represented a [ ] shift, but had a long way to go before achieving recognition.

D Slat developed the idea as part of a school science project, for which he won Best Technical Design at the University of Delft, and that success set in motion a process that would lead to his current work. From childhood his creativity and originality were evident; he was always fascinated by

*some part skipped

E After school he went on to study aero-engineering at Delft University but quit after six months, as he was increasingly committed to developing the clean-up project and ready to dedicate all his time to it. The would-be entrepreneur set up a foundation, The Ocean Cleanup (TOC), but could find no sponsors. It was a [ ] experience, but the process, Slat says, helped him learn to communicate his ideas more effectively.

F But even when Slat contemplated [ ], he never lost sight of his goal, and a major breakthrough finally came. A TED talk he gave went [ ] with millions of shares, and this enabled Slat to access financial support. He was just nineteen, but his youth, as one TOC volunteer pointed out, was anything but a disadvantage. 'Boyan's got this energy that simply takes you in. He never gives up, he works incredibly hard, and his persistence is infectious.

G Slat now has over 100 scientists researching the oceans and is conducting pilot studies in various sites around the world. He acknowledges that the clean-up, if successful, is only the start. 'Although a clean-up will

fired
across
spurred on
Conventional
breakthrough
profound
paradigm
cancel
debris
US /də bri:/ debris
pioneer
disheartening
failure
game-changing
viral

LIVEWORKSHEETS