

Student Worksheet KEY

Post-assessment: Check your understanding!

1. Why is there so much plastic in the ocean? Where does it come from?

Answer: People make plastic items to use, and some of these items end up in the ocean. Some of the plastic we use and discard is littered on land then washed into waterways with rain. Other pieces of plastic are spilled off ships or abandoned along the shore. Plastic is not biodegradable, so any plastic that enters the ocean remains there for a very, very long time unless we can remove it.

2. Why is plastic in the ocean a problem?

Answer: Wildlife can eat pieces of microplastic, causing them to be poisoned or starve. Animals can also get tangled in larger pieces of plastic, like nets or six-pack holders, impeding their ability to swim or fly.

3. Where in the ocean would be the most effective spots to put plastic-removing devices? Why?

Answer: The most effective places to locate these devices would be off the coast in areas where there is a lot of plastic litter entering the ocean, particularly in East Asia. Stopping the plastic before it traverses the ocean and gets caught in ocean gyres means there is less time for wildlife to accidentally eat it.

4. If you were to design a device for removing plastic (including very tiny pieces of microplastic) from the ocean, what would it look like? How would it work? Feel free to draw it!

Answer: varies. Encourage creativity and artistic expression. #STEAM

5. What are things you can personally do to prevent plastic litter from polluting the ocean?

Answer: varies, could include:

- *Reduce your own plastic use consciously and share your choice with others.*

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- *Make sure you tidy up your plastic waste and try to reuse and recycle your plastics as much as possible.*
 - *Think about how your family, school or others use and dispose of plastics and try and help.*
 - *Clean up waste on your local beach.*

Writing extension: Your own abstract!

- Create your own version of the abstract. (An abstract is a brief summary of the entire paper.)
- How? To write a good abstract, summarize each section in one or two sentences and connect them in a cohesive paragraph.
- *KEY: Will vary but must convey the same information as the abstract in the article.*

