The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!

Vocabulary Preview

patch = an area

- ***Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.***

1. factory	E	**A.**	to stay on or near the surface of water
2. disposable	_____	**B.**	a cover that people use to protect things
3. wrapping	_____	**C.**	to fall apart into small pieces
4. float (v.)	_____	**D.**	to change something so that it can be used again
5. plastic	_____	**E.**	building(s) where people make things
6. break down (v.)	_____	**F.**	a material used to make bottles, bags, toys, etc..
7. chemicals	_____	**G.**	materials, some of which are dangerous to health
8. recycle	_____	**H.**	able to be thrown away after using a short time

- ***Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms (-s) when necessary.***

1. Lead and mercury are examples of dangerous _chemicals_.
2. This water bottle is made from _____, not glass.
3. I work in a _____ that makes cars.
4. Planes fly in the air, and boats _____ on water.
5. Don't just throw away old newspapers. You can _____ them.
6. Some kinds of garbage can _____ and disappear after many years.
7. Most things we buy nowadays use _____ to protect them.
8. Empty plastic bottles are _____. People usually throw them away.

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With so many factories that make disposable toothbrushes, pens, cans, bottles and wrappings, garbage **(1)**_____ a very big problem in our world today. You may think that garbage is everywhere. Well, **(2)**_____ right. It is everywhere! A good (and scary) example of this is the 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch'. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch **(3)**_____ first discovered by scientists **(4)**_____ the 1980s. It is an area of floating garbage in the Pacific Ocean that is about the same size as Texas. **(5)**_____ are many kinds of garbage in the Garbage Patch, but plastic bottles and bags, and other things made of plastic cause **(6)**_____ problem. 'What's the problem?' you may **(7)**_____. First, plastic bottles and bags may take hundreds or maybe even thousands of years to break down. Second, plastic is made from chemicals. As the plastics break down over time, chemicals enter the water – and enter the fish **(8)**_____ live in the water. **(9)**_____ chemicals can make the fish sick, and they can also make the people **(10)**_____ eat the fish sick. So … what can we do? There are many things we can do! We can clean **(11)**_____ our oceans, we can stop making so many things from plastic, and we can recycle more. The important thing is to do **(12)**_____!

How Much Do You Understand?

- ***Write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.***

1. _____ There are too many factories near the Pacific Ocean.
2. _____ The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is in Texas.
3. _____ Garbage that is made from plastic is a big problem.
4. _____ Scientists discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch hundreds of years ago.
5. _____ Chemicals can make both fish and people sick.
6. _____ There are many things we can do to fix this problem.

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