

# The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!

## Vocabulary Preview

↪ patch = an area

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

- |                    |          |   |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| 1. factory         | <u>E</u> | 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.

# The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!

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.