

English Department

Reading Journal Task – Third term 2020 – 2021

Grade (12)

Read the text and answer the questions in full sentences

Text

Scientists and environmentalists have described a vast patch of floating rubbish in the Pacific Ocean. A large proportion of waste ends up in the ocean due to the North Pacific gyre. This is a current that accumulates rubbish and deposits it into a massive area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Around 80% of the debris comes from North America and Asia, while the remaining 20% comes from boats, shipping containers and oil rigs. While there are many different types of rubbish discarded into the ocean, plastic makes up the majority as it is cheap to produce and durable. The problem with plastic is that it does not biodegrade, it simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. The Garbage Patch has been described in different ways. 'The Pacific Garbage Patch is a huge environmental problem, so big that it is becoming visible from space.' Hewson (2013:118). However, others suggest that this is not true, and an accurate description of the problem is required. According to Edwards (2015), plastic breaks down into smaller pieces called micro plastic which is more worrying as fish and other marine life will ingest it. Lynott and Turner (2014), suggest that as the population expands and more rubbish is dumped into our oceans, this problem is going to get bigger and micro plastic will begin to enter the human food chain and could potentially be catastrophic for peoples' health. The dense micro plastic cloud in the water blocks light, penetrating to the deeper levels of the ocean, which in turn prevents plankton and algae growth. Plankton is a major source of food for small marine life, and it is on these that larger fish such as tuna depend. So, the potential for damage to the entire marine food web is high

	Questions	Answer
Understanding Overall Meaning	Why is the North Pacific gyre important?	
Identifying Specific	Why is plastic and other rubbish considered harmful?	
Making Connections	Describe how the food web is impacted by Garbage Patch	

Our best wishes