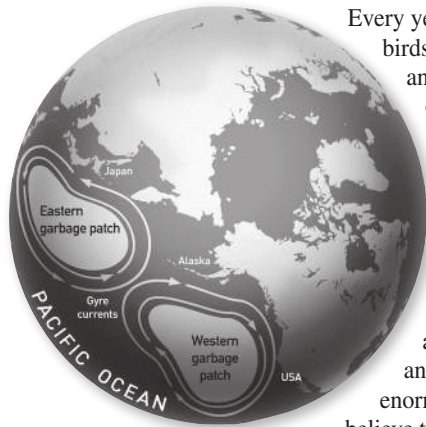


8 Reading Worksheet

1. Read the article. What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

The problem with plastic



Every year, a million sea birds and 100,000 marine animals die in the oceans because of plastic. A lot of this plastic is floating in the Pacific Ocean in the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch." This area with unusually high amounts of plastic and chemical waste is enormous. Some scientists believe the area is twice the size of France, but it's difficult to measure the area accurately because we can't see it on satellites as most of the pieces of plastic are very small. However, scientists think it might weigh at least three million tons.

In 1997, Charles Moore discovered the Garbage Patch after taking part in a sailing race to Hawaii. He wanted to get home more quickly so he chose a different route home. He soon realized his mistake. It took his boat a week to sail through all the plastic. He was shocked at the things he saw in the water: plastic bottle caps, toothbrushes, bags, bottles, and all sorts of packaging.

Scientists now know that 80% of the plastic in the Pacific comes from land. The wind carries garbage from city streets and landfills, or from trucks and trains on their way to landfills all over the world into rivers, and eventually the ocean.

So, what are we supposed to do to help? You can start by reusing shopping bags. Every year, manufacturers make more than a trillion plastic bags. Reuse your plastic drinks bottles instead of buying a new bottle of water. Only one in five plastic drinks bottles is currently recycled. Start now!



2. Identify the main idea Check the statement that best expresses the main idea of the article.

1. Scientists are trying to reduce the size of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

2. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch helps ships sail more quickly.

3. There is a dangerous amount of plastic in the Pacific Ocean and it is causing serious problems for birds and wildlife.

3. Scan for information Choose the correct answer.

1. Plastic in the world's oceans causes particular problems for ...

- a. sailboats and ships.
- b. sea birds and fish.
- c. sea animals, birds, and ships.
- (d) sea birds and sea animals.**

2. Some scientists think the Great Pacific Garbage Patch ...

- a. is the same size as France.
- b. might be twice as big as France.
- c. isn't as big as France.
- d. might not be as big as France.

3. Charles Moore found the Great Pacific Garbage Patch ...

- a. during a sailing race.
- b. as he was sailing his usual route home.
- c. as he was looking for a quicker route home.
- d. because he wanted to get home to Hawaii.

4. Charles Moore was ... when he saw all the plastic in the Pacific.

- a. surprised and sad
- b. angry and tired
- c. nervous
- d. exhausted

5. Most of the plastic in the Great Garbage Patch comes from ...

- a. landfills.
- b. garbage in cities around the world.
- c. the sea.
- d. trucks and boats carrying garbage.

6. According to the article, people can help if they ...

- a. stop using plastic shopping bags.
- b. buy bottled water in plastic bottles.
- c. recycle their old soda cans.
- d. reuse plastic bags and drinks bottles.