

Plastic Pollution on Earth



By Axel, 11th grade

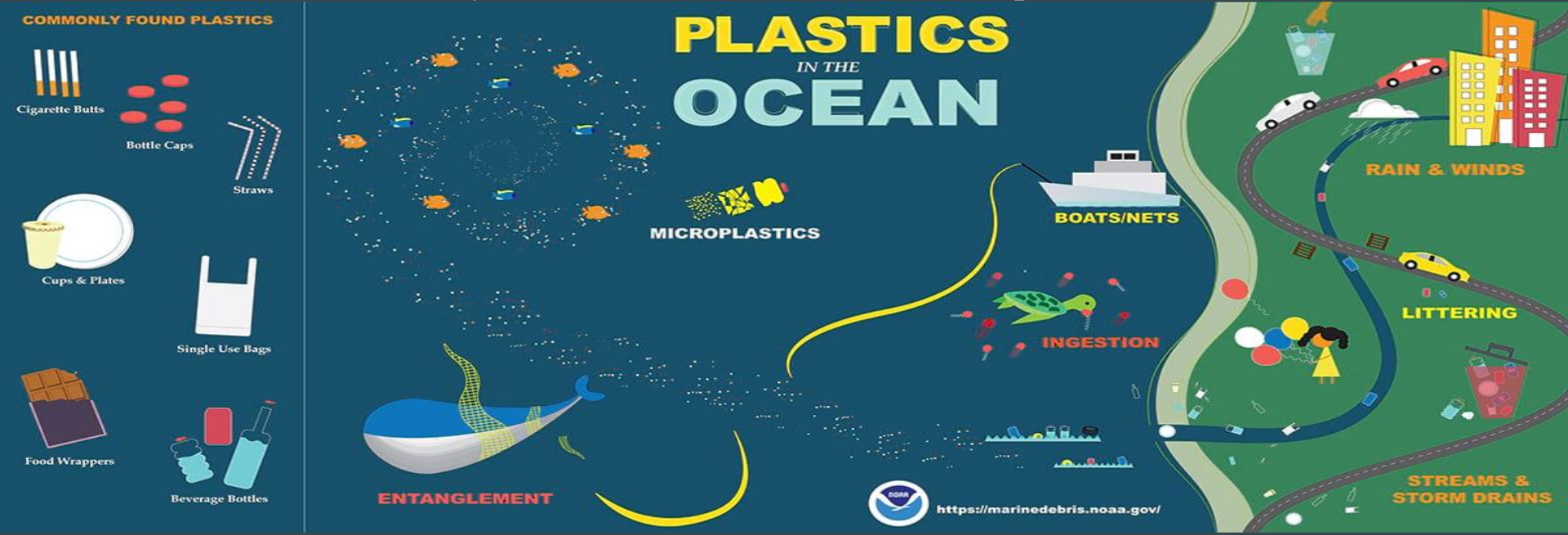
Plastic in the Oceans

- Currently there is around 150 million tons of trash and plastic in the Ocean
- Every year around 8 million new tons of plastic enter Oceans worldwide



How do plastics enter the Ocean?

- Trash & litter that accumulate on the streets or even in dumps all eventually end up in the world's Oceans
- Ocean dumping act of 1988 prevents companies from directly dumping trash in the Ocean, but many business models use 1 time use plastics.



True or False Environmental effects

- True or False, Plastics natural break down in only 10 years.
- True or False, Plastics in the Ocean affect over 800 animal species.
- True or False, Most marine animals mistake plastic for food.
- True or False, Plastics only impact the Ocean.

Environmental Effects

- Plastic is one of the most harmful substances to pollute the environment, unlike certain other forms of trash all plastics are non biodegradable! This means that when large amounts of plastics collect up in the ocean or nature they will stay there or pollute other areas for up to 500 years before they break down naturally.

Environmental Effects

- All this plastic impacts marine life too, the fact that there is this much plastic in the oceans is not normal so animals are not used to its effects, most animals mistake plastic for food and since most animal life can not digest plastic it leads to suffocation or starvation because their digestive system gets blocked.

Environmental Effects

- Along with this fresh water environments can also be impacted, some large collections of plastic end up causing a shift in water flow ruining certain animals natural habitats, on top of this the UN found that over 800 animal species were affected by Trash.

What effects do these plastics have on the environment?

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Marine Life



1) - PAUL SOUDERS (WORLDFOOT)



2) - FLIP NICKLIN (MINDEN PICTURE)



3) - SETH PATTERSON (NPL/MINDEN PICTURES)



4) - JIM RATHERT (MISSOURI DEPT OF CONSERVATION)



5) - J R COMPTON



6) - STOCKTREK IMAGES, INC. (ALAMY STOCK PHOTO)



7) - JOHN CANCALOS (ING IMAGE COLLECTION)



Recycling

- You can reduce plastic waste in your everyday life, by using less one time use plastic items like water bottles, or even bringing reusable bags when you go to the grocery store.
- Also a big part is making sure you are putting your trash in the right recycling bins.

Sources

Donate:

<https://tangentmaterials.com/10-innovative-companies-that-reuse-plastic/>

<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/>

<https://theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marinedebris/plastics-in-the-ocean.html>

Info:

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/09/24/plastic-pollution-affects-sea-life-throughout-the-ocean#:~:text=Fish%2C%20seabirds%2C%20sea%20turtles%2C,suffocation%2C%20starvation%2C%20and%20drowning.&text=Plastic%20waste%20kills%20up%20to,their%20stomachs%2C%20sometimes%20causing%20starvation.>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720357454>