


NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING

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.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

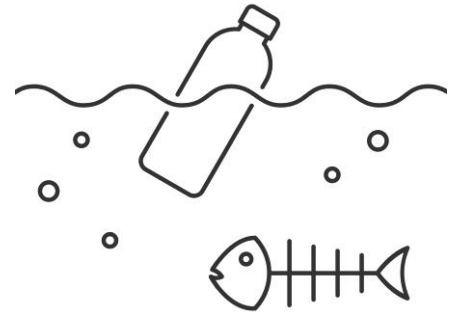
NAME: _____

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READING

Topic: Oceans and Sealife / Planet Earth

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!



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

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Grammar Practice

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)**_____!

1.

- (A) is
- (B) are
- (C) were

2.

- (A) your
- (B) you're
- (C) yours

3.

- (A) was
- (B) is
- (C) were

4.

- (A) at
- (B) on
- (C) in

5.

- (A) They're
- (B) Their
- (C) There

6.

- (A) biggest
- (B) the biggest
- (C) bigger

7.

- (A) ask
- (B) asked
- (C) asks

8.

- (A) that
- (B) who
- (C) where

9.

- (A) That
- (B) This
- (C) These

10.

- (A) what
- (B) who
- (C) where

11.

- (A) down
- (B) over
- (C) up

12.

- (A) somewhere
- (B) something
- (C) someone

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READING

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!

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.

Discuss

- *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. How does this article make you feel? Why?
2. Do you ever recycle things? Why? / Why not?
3. How can people live without things made from plastic? Is it possible?

Write

- *Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.*

Lesson "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch!"

Grammar Focus Mixed (includes modals such as 'may' and 'can')

Vocabulary 211 words
A1 words-71% / **A2** words-14% / **B1** words-6% / **B2** words- 1%
AWL Words in this text: *area, chemicals*
 Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

My Notes

• **Vocabulary**

- | | |
|------|---------------|
| 1. E | 1. chemicals |
| 2. H | 2. plastic |
| 3. B | 3. factory |
| 4. A | 4. float |
| 5. F | 5. recycle |
| 6. C | 6. break down |
| 7. G | 7. wrappings |
| 8. D | 8. disposable |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

ANSWER KEY Page 4

● **Grammar**

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 7. A |
| 2. B | 8. A |
| 3. A | 9. C |
| 4. C | 10. B |
| 5. C | 11. C |
| 6. B | 12. B |

● **How Much Do You Understand?**

1. F (*The article doesn't say where the factories are.*)
2. F (*It's in the Pacific Ocean.*)
3. T
4. F (*They discovered it in the 1980s.*)
5. T
6. T

Article Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pacific_garbage_patch
- <http://garbagepatch.net/greatpacificoceangarbagepatchfacts/>
- <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/patch.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkfAnQtUCw>