
Ocean

Plastic Pollution

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Every year, millions of tons of **plastic** end up in the world's **oceans**. This **plastic** does not disappear — it breaks into tiny pieces and stays in the water for hundreds of years. This is a big **problem** for our planet.

Sea life suffers the most. **Fish** and other **animals** mistake plastic pieces for food. When they eat plastic, they can get very sick and die. Scientists have found plastic inside fish, turtles, seabirds, and even whales.

Plastic pollution also makes the ocean **dirty**. When the water is not **clean**, it affects the health of coral reefs and sea plants. Millions of people depend on the ocean for food, and pollution makes it harder to find safe fish to eat.

People **throw** away too much plastic every single day. Plastic bags, bottles, and straws are used once and then discarded. Many of these items find their way into rivers and then flow into the sea. Once plastic enters the ocean, it is very hard to remove.

There are ways to **help** and **save** our oceans. We can use less plastic every day. Bring your own bags to the store. Recycle your bottles. Join beach cleanups in your community. Small actions by millions of people can make a big difference.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. ocean ____ | a. something that is difficult or harmful |
| 2. plastic ____ | b. a very large area of salt water |
| 3. clean ____ | c. a living creature that can move |
| 4. dirty ____ | d. to send something through the air |
| 5. fish ____ | e. not clean; full of dirt or waste |

6. animal ____ f. an animal that lives in water
7. problem ____ g. to do something useful for someone
8. help ____ h. to keep something from danger
9. save ____ i. free from dirt
10. throw ____ j. a light, strong material made by humans

B. True or False

1. Plastic in the ocean disappears after one year. ____
2. Fish and animals can mistake plastic for food. ____
3. Plastic pollution affects coral reefs and sea plants. ____
4. It is easy to remove plastic once it enters the ocean. ____
5. Plastic bags are used many times before being thrown ____ away.
6. Scientists have found plastic inside whales. ____
7. Recycling bottles helps reduce ocean plastic. ____
8. People depend on the ocean for food. ____
9. Only plastic straws cause ocean pollution. ____

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: ocean, plastic, clean, fish, problem, help, save

1. The _____ is a very large body of salt water that covers much of Earth.
2. _____ does not disappear — it stays in the water for hundreds of years.
3. When the water is not _____, it can harm sea animals and coral reefs.
4. Many _____ and other sea creatures eat plastic by mistake.
5. We can _____ the ocean by using less plastic every day.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. How long can plastic stay in the ocean?
2. Name two sea animals that can be hurt by plastic.

3. How does plastic get from land into the ocean?
4. What happens to the ocean when plastic makes it dirty?
5. Name two things you can do to help reduce plastic pollution.

E. Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen trash on a beach or in a river? How did it make you feel?
2. What plastic items do you use every day that you could replace?
3. Why is it important to keep our oceans clean?

□ **Learn More:** Watch: youtu.be/UANP4G6ORg0 — Tahric Teaches

Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-e, 2-f, 3-c, 4-g, 5-h, 6-b, 7-i, 8-d, 9-j, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-ocean, 2-Plastic, 3-clean, 4-fish, 5-save

D. Comprehension:

1. Hundreds of years
2. Fish, turtles, seabirds, whales (any two)
3. Through rivers and waterways into the sea
4. It harms coral reefs, sea plants, and makes fish unsafe to eat
5. Use less plastic, recycle bottles, bring own bags, join beach cleanups (any two)

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