



Teacher's Notes: Plastic in the Ocean

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students working on those skills. There is something for everyone.

Addressing problem solving: Throughout the e-book, help students identify the problems that are involved and choice making opportunities throughout the article.

Page 1: There was a story in the newspaper. It was in the news on March 24th. It was about a problem.

Point: March, 24th, 2, 4th **Questions:** What is a problem? What season is March? What month is it now? When was March 24th? What day of the week was it? What date is circled? Why is it circled?

Page 2: The problem that the article was about was garbage. Garbage that is plastic. Plastic floats when it is in the water. The plastic garbage is floating in the Pacific Ocean. **Point:** Pacific Ocean, USA, garbage, plastic bottle **Questions:** What is something made of plastic? Does plastic float? Do you think that is good that the plastic is in the ocean? Why or why not?

Page 3: The garbage in the Pacific Ocean is floating all together. It is an area where there is a lot of garbage floating on top of the water. The area where all of this garbage is floating is big. It is bigger than the state of Texas! **Point:** California, Hawaii, Pacific Ocean **Questions:** If you go to Hawaii, which ocean are you swimming in? How about CA? What does between mean? It's in the middle, does middle mean between? What is between CA and HI? Why is that garbage there?

Page 4: When something floats, it is on top of the water. It is floating. A boat floats on the water. When plastic is thrown in the ocean, it floats. Some garbage sinks. That means it goes to the bottom of the ocean. You can see that the tire is garbage that did not float. It sunk to the bottom of the ocean. **Point:** tire, bottom of the ocean, rock, boat **Questions:** What is something that floats? Do you like to float in the pool? What does sink mean? Did the tire sink? Why? Does plastic usually sink? Why?

Page 5: Scientists are very upset about the garbage in the ocean. It is awful. There is too much garbage in the ocean. It is causing problems. The scientists do not want problems in the ocean. The ocean is where animals live. **Point:** plastic bag, bottom, dirty water **Questions:** Is it good to have garbage in the ocean? Are the scientists happy about the garbage? Why are they not happy? Are the animals happy? Why?

Page 6: Animals don't always know that the garbage is not good to eat. Sometimes they think it is food. Sometimes they eat a plastic bottle or a plastic bag that is floating in the ocean. This is not good. When animals in the ocean eat plastic, it can make them very sick. It can kill them. They can die from eating it.

When they eat it, their stomachs hurt. They do not feel good. It is sad. **Point:** turtle eating a bottle, fish, plastic bag, dead turtle **Questions:** How do you feel about this? What do you think about the animals eating the plastic? Is it a good idea to eat plastic? Can it make animals sick? Would people get sick if they ate a plastic bottle?

Page 7: Scientists look at the water with a microscope. They can see if the water is polluted. It is polluted. The scientists get water and put it in a test tube. This is where they hold the water until they look at it with a microscope. The plastic starts to break down a bit. That means it starts to rot. Some of the plastic gets in the water. That makes the water polluted. Scientists do not want the water in the ocean to have plastic in it at all. **Point:** scientist, microscope, test tube, gloves, beach **Questions:** What is a test tube? What is the scientist looking at with the microscope? What does 'worried' mean?

Page 8: Scientists do not want the plastic in the ocean anymore. It is polluting the ocean. It is making animals sick. It is killing some animals. Plastic garbage should not be in the ocean. **Point:** turtles, shark, scientists, net, beach, garbage **Questions:** What is a scientist? How do people clean the ocean? What are the scientists trying to get out of the ocean? Why?

Page 9: The scientists want everyone to know that no more garbage can go in the ocean. When people are done with plastic bottles or other plastic things, they need to go in the recycle bin. There is a symbol for recycle. We will see it on the worksheets. **Point** symbol for "no". person throwing a plastic bottle away, ocean, fish, garbage **Questions :** What color are recycle bins usually? What does recycle mean?