

The World Needs *Clean Oceans*



Image description: a hexagon made up of 6 images each showing of nature (beaches and oceans)

Upper Elementary Worksheet

learn about it.

The health of the world's oceans is an issue that connects each and every one of us. Oceans are essential to maintaining the health of our planet. Unfortunately, the effects of human behavior over decades have negatively impacted the health of our oceans.

Plastic consumption contributes a lot of waste to our oceans. When plastic is not **recycled**, it can either be burned in an **incendiary**, or it ends up in a **landfill**. The world's largest landfill is the "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" located in the North Pacific Ocean.

In the "The World Needs: Clean Oceans" video, our global peers explain that, despite the amount of information available about the health of our oceans, change isn't happening fast enough. We all need to take more action as individuals to change our habits and call for changes to rules and policies that negatively impact the health of our oceans.

think about it.

Before you start this section, write down the current time where you live. It is ___:___ am/pm.

Have you ever thought about how much plastic you use in a day? Many everyday items contain **plastic**, such as cars, phones, computers, bottles, and bags. Plastic is a valuable material because it is strong, flexible, lightweight, and lasts forever.

So what's the problem with plastic? Since it is not a natural material, it cannot **decompose**, or break down, and return to the earth. This makes it very hard to get rid of, even if you recycle it. Most often, plastic ends up in our oceans. Almost 90% of plastic litter found in the oceans are from **single-use** plastic objects like bags and bottles.

Now what time is it where you live? It is ___:___ am/pm. How many minutes have passed since you first recorded the time above? ___ minutes.

Every minute, **1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased!** How many plastic drinking bottles have been purchased since you've been doing this section? Use this equation to solve: **(1,000,000) x (the number of minutes recorded above) = how many bottles have been purchased.**

Solve. $(1,000,000) \times (\quad) = (\quad)$

Yikes! That's a lot of plastic bottles. Where do you think many of them will eventually end up? If you said "our oceans" you'd be right. So, **how you can you help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our oceans?**

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talk about it.

Find a friend, classmate, or family member and discuss any of the following questions:

- **What kind of plastic do I use every day?**
- **How can I reduce my use of plastic?**
- **Why is protecting the ocean important?**
- **Who can help me protect the ocean?**

be about it!

Now it's time to take action.

Using the organizer on the right, **share your goal for cleaner oceans.**

Your goal should be something specific that you can achieve within a set amount of time.

Think of ways to involve your friends and family in achieving your goal.

I, personally, will...	With my family, I will...
My Goal is...	
With my friends, I will...	At my school, I will...