

## Plastic in the ocean: What can we do?

One day, a plastic bag sat in a bin. The bin was too full. The lid was open.

Suddenly, a strong wind blew. The plastic bag flew out of the bin and fell on the street.

'Where am I going?' the bag thought.

Later, it started to rain. It rained and rained and rained. Water ran along the street and into a drain. The plastic bag moved with the water.

'Stop!' it thought. 'I don't want to go!'

But the water was too fast. The bag went down the drain and then it went through dark pipes.

Suddenly, the plastic bag came out of the pipe and into a river. The river was big and the water was fast. The bag saw some fish swimming.

'Hello!' said the bag.

But the fish swam away quickly.

After a few days, the river carried the bag into the ocean. The ocean was big. Very big. The bag felt small and scared. In the ocean, the bag saw lots of fish and other sea animals. It saw a turtle swimming slowly. The turtle looked at the bag ... it thought the bag was a jellyfish. It tried to eat the bag.

'No!' thought the bag. 'I'm not food!'

The turtle swam away.

The bag saw a fish. The fish was caught in another plastic bag. It couldn't get out.

The bag was sad.

'I feel bad,' it thought. 'Plastic bags like me don't belong in the ocean. We harm the animals.'

The waves pushed the bag further and further. There was more and more rubbish in the water. Bags, bottles, wrappers ... so much plastic.

Finally, the bag arrived in a place with thousands of other pieces of plastic rubbish. It was like an island of floating rubbish. The bag looked around.

'Where am I?' it asked.

'This is an ocean garbage patch,' said a plastic bottle. 'We're all stuck here.'

The bag was quiet. It remembered the street. It remembered the bin.  
'I don't want to be here,' it thought.

Today, the plastic bag is still floating in the ocean. It can't leave.

But people can help. They can use less plastic. They can recycle. They can stop plastic rubbish going into the ocean and harming fish and other sea creatures.

What can you do to help?