

Plastic in the ocean: What can we do?





How can a plastic bag get from a city park to the ocean?



>



Read the story, then choose the best title.

1. A day at the beach
2. A long journey
3. A story about sea animals



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 don't belong in the ocean. They 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?

Complete the sentences (1–8) with the words (a–h).

- a) river
- b) patch
- c) bin
- d) caught
- e) wind
- f) drain
- g) harm
- h) pipe

1. You should put your rubbish in the ____.
2. When the ____ blows, rubbish can move from one place to another.
3. A ____ is a covered hole at the side of the road that water can go down.
4. A ____ is a long, round tube that carries water.
5. A ____ takes water from the land into the sea.
6. Sea animals sometimes get ____ in plastic rubbish and can't get out.
7. Plastic can ____ fish. They can get ill or die if they eat it.
8. An ocean garbage ____ is a big island of floating rubbish.

Complete the sentences (1–8) with the words (a–h).

- a) river
- b) patch
- c) bin
- d) caught
- e) wind
- f) drain
- g) harm
- h) pipe

1. You should put your rubbish in the **bin**. (c)
2. When the **wind** blows, rubbish can move from one place to another. (e)
3. A **drain** is a covered hole at the side of the road that water can go down. (f)
4. A **pipe** is a long, round tube that carries water. (h)
5. A **river** takes water from the land into the sea. (a)
6. Sea animals sometimes get **caught** in plastic rubbish and can't get out. (d)
7. Plastic can **harm** fish. They can get ill or die if they eat it. (g)
8. An ocean garbage **patch** is a big island of floating rubbish. (b)

Put the story events (a–f) in the order they happened (1–6).

- a) The bag goes through dark pipes and comes out in a river.
- b) The bag arrives in an ocean garbage patch with lots of other plastic rubbish.
- c) The wind blows the bag out of the bin, onto the street.
- d) The bag goes along the river and into the ocean.
- e) A turtle tries to eat the bag.
- f) Rainwater takes the bag down a drain and into a pipe.

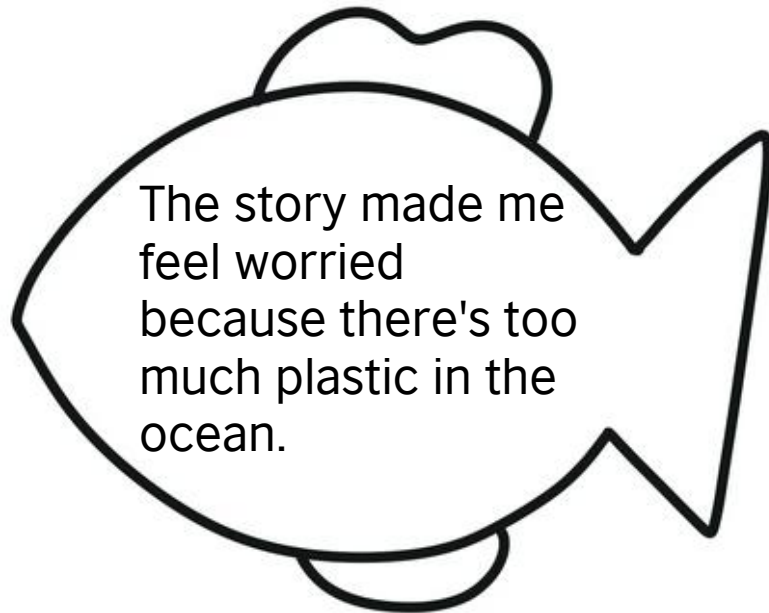
Put the story events (a–f) in the order they happened (1–6).

1. The wind blows the bag out of the bin, onto the street. (c)
2. Rainwater takes the bag down a drain and into a pipe. (f)
3. The bag goes through dark pipes and comes out in a river. (a)
4. The bag goes along the river and into the ocean. (d)
5. A turtle tries to eat the bag. (e)
6. The bag arrives in an ocean garbage patch with lots of other plastic rubbish. (b)

What do you think? Tell your partner.

1. Why is there so much plastic rubbish in our oceans?
2. Why is plastic in oceans a problem for animals?
3. How could plastic in oceans be a problem for people?

Complete the sentence.
The story made me feel _____ because ...



Write the words under the headings.

Single-use plastic

Reusable / Sustainable

Single-use plastic: We only use it one time. We throw it away after we use it.

Reusable: We can use it more than once.

Sustainable: It causes little or no harm to the environment.

- Slogan** Stop plastic in the ocean!
Plastic belongs in the bin, not the ocean!
- Picture** a turtle trying to eat a plastic bag
a fish caught in a plastic bottle
- Explain** Wind and rain can make rubbish go into rivers. Rivers take the rubbish to the ocean.
Plastic can harm fish and other sea creatures.
- Action** Put your rubbish in the bin!
Use a cloth bag, not a plastic bag!

To write about what you like:

I like your poster because ...

I like your slogan because ...

Your picture shows ...

To write about things you learned:

I learned ... from your poster.

Your poster taught me that ...

I didn't know ... until I saw your poster.

To make suggestions or give ideas:

You could also ...

Another idea is ...

Maybe you could add ...

To make positive comments:

Great job!

Very creative!

I like your idea!