

A Plastic Ocean is a new documentary that looks at the problems that are caused when plastic waste goes into the sea.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zrn4-FfbXw#action=share> and find out more about how plastic can be dangerous to sea animals and human health. Then do the exercise. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1..... a crisis | a. an area where waste is buried under the ground |
| 2..... to degrade | b. a small part of something |
| 3..... a landfill site | c. a difficult or dangerous situation that needs urgent attention |
| 4..... to dump | d. a diver who holds their breath under water |
| 5..... to endure | e. in perfect condition |
| 6..... a free diver | f. to get rid of something quickly without worrying about it |
| 7..... a fraction of something | g. to suffer |
| 8..... pristine | h. to break down into smaller substances |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

- When did the first narrator start following blue whales?
a. When he was a teenager
b. When he was a child
c. When he was an adult
- How many tons of plastic are dumped into the oceans every year?
a. 8 million
b. 5 million
c. 9 million
- What does the narrator do for a living?
a. He's a TV presenter.
b. He's a diver.
c. He's a journalist.

4. How does the free diver feel about her work helping to clean the oceans?
 - a. That more people should do it
 - b. That it's her way to pay back the ocean for all the pleasure it has given her
 - c. That it's an impossible job
5. Why is the plastic in the ocean never going to degrade?
 - a. Because it has nowhere to go
 - b. Because there is too much of it
 - c. Because more and more is being dumped daily
6. How many pieces of plastic were found in a ninety-day-old chick?
 - a. 256
 - b. 266
 - c. 276
7. What has been built on the landfill sites?
 - a. Beaches – including resorts for tourists
 - b. Factories – including plastic bottle factories
 - c. Communities – including their food production
8. What does the main narrator believe is possible?
 - a. He believes change is possible and it starts with us.
 - b. He believes change is possible if we stop buying plastic bottles.
 - c. He believes change is possible if we stop throwing bottles in the ocean.

Discussion

Do you use a lot of plastic?

What do you think we can do, as individuals, to help improve the problem of having too much plastic in our oceans?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learned in this lesson.