

The Biggest Dump

in the World

Did You Know?

In 2006, there were 46,000 pieces of plastic in every mile of ocean.

In 1997, a large piece of rubbish was found in the Pacific Ocean. It was just under the water.

How did it get there?

This rubbish is called the Pacific Gyre. It is rubbish that has collected together. It is 20 metres deep. It weighs 3.5 million tons. It cannot be seen from an airplane.

What Caused The Pacific Gyre?

Plastic is the reason for the Pacific Gyre. Most rubbish is made from plastic. Plastic does not go away. It is put into rubbish tips. It often gets into the sea. It is then carried into the Pacific Ocean.

Is There Anything That Can Be Done?

The Pacific Gyre is getting bigger and bigger. Some scientists say that nothing can be done about it. People have to get better at getting rid of rubbish.

TYPHOON CLUB ANALYSIS

Level	1
Word Count	158
Characters per word	4.0
Words per sentence	7.2

THEMATIC VOCABULARY

dump	rubbish	plastic	break down	waste
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LEVEL ONE QUESTIONS

1. How many pieces of plastic could be found in every mile of ocean in 2006?
2. Name the large piece of rubbish that was found in 1997.
3. What caused the Pacific Gyre?
4. What is happening to the Pacific Gyre?
5. Is there anything that can be done to get rid of the Pacific Gyre?
DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can we get better at getting rid of rubbish?

WRITING TASK
Write three slogans that can help bring people's attention to the problems caused by rubbish made from plastic.

1. In 2006, there were 46,000 pieces of plastic in every mile of ocean.
2. The large piece of rubbish found in 1997 was called the Pacific Gyre.
3. The Pacific Gyre was created by plastic. Plastic does not go away and it can be carried into the Pacific Ocean.
4. The Pacific Gyre is getting bigger and bigger.
5. Some scientists say that nothing can be done about it. People have to get better at getting rid of rubbish.

LEVEL ONE SUGGESTED ANSWERS

The Biggest Dump in the World

Did You Know?

In 2006, there were 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in every square mile of ocean.

In 1997, a sailor called Charles Moore sailed across the Pacific Ocean. He saw that his boat was floating above a large piece of rubbish. When he reached America, he asked how the rubbish got there.

What Had Charles Moore Discovered?

He had seen the Pacific Gyre. This is a large amount of rubbish that has collected together. It is 20 metres deep. It weighs 3.5 million tons. It is just under the water. It cannot be seen from an airplane.

What Caused The Pacific Gyre?

Plastic is the reason for the Pacific Gyre. Most rubbish today is made from plastic. Plastic cannot be destroyed. It is thrown into rubbish tips. It then gets into the sea. It is then carried into the Pacific Ocean.

Is There Anything That Can Be Done?

The Pacific Gyre is getting bigger and bigger. Some scientists say that nothing can be done about it. Plastic will not go away. People have to get better at getting rid of rubbish.

TYPHOON CLUB ANALYSIS

Level	2
Word Count	191
Characters per word	4.2
Words per sentence	7.6

THEMATIC VOCABULARY

dump	rubbish	plastic	break down	waste
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LEVEL TWO QUESTIONS

1. What is the title of the story?
2. What did Charles Moore see when he sailed across the Pacific Ocean?
3. Describe the Pacific Gyre.
4. Explain what happens to rubbish made of plastic.
5. Who says that nothing can be done to get rid of the Pacific Gyre?
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Discuss ways in which we can reduce using plastic?

WRITING TASK
Write three slogans that can help bring people's attention to the problems caused by rubbish made from plastic.

1. The title of the story is 'The Biggest Dump'.
2. When Charles Moore sailed across the Pacific Ocean he saw that his boat was floating above a large piece of rubbish.
3. The Pacific Gyre is a large amount of rubbish that has collected together. It is 20 metres deep and weighs 3.5 million tons. It is just under the water.
4. Rubbish made of plastic cannot be destroyed so it is thrown into rubbish dumps.
5. Scientists say that nothing can be done to get rid of the Pacific Gyre.

LEVEL TWO SUGGESTED ANSWERS

The Biggest Dump in the World

Did You Know?

In 2006, there were 46,000 pieces of floating plastic in every square mile of ocean.

In 1997, a sailor called Charles Moore sailed across the Pacific Ocean. Halfway across, he saw that his boat was floating above a large amount of rubbish. This seemed very unusual. When he returned to America, he asked how the rubbish had gotten there.

What Had Charles Moore Discovered?

He had found something called the Pacific Gyre. The Pacific Gyre is a large amount of rubbish that has collected together. It is 20 metres deep and weighs 3.5 million tons.

It floats just under the water. It is impossible to photograph from satellites or aircraft.

What Caused The Pacific Gyre?

The main reason for the Pacific Gyre is the use of plastic. Most waste today is made from plastic. It is impossible to destroy plastic, so it is usually thrown into rubbish tips. It then finds its way into the sea. The plastic slowly breaks down into tiny pieces and is carried into the Pacific Ocean. Other rubbish attaches itself to the plastic. This makes a large collection of rubbish.

Is There Anything That Can Be Done?

The Pacific Gyre has doubled in size over the past ten years. Dr Simon Boxall says that there is no answer for the problem. He said, "There is nothing we can do. It's too big, and it's here to stay. Even oil breaks down. Plastic does not. We have to improve on how we get rid of waste."

TYPHOON CLUB ANALYSIS

Level	3
Word Count	263
Characters per word	4.2
Words per sentence	9.1

THEMATIC VOCABULARY

dump	rubbish	plastic	break down	waste
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LEVEL THREE QUESTIONS

1. What is the name given to materials that are no longer useful and thrown away?
2. What is impossible to do to the Pacific Gyre? Why?
3. Describe the process from plastic being useful to it reaching the Pacific Gyre.
4. What has happened to the Pacific Gyre in the last ten years?
5. What does the feature say can be done to reduce the Pacific Gyre?
DISCUSSION TOPIC: What are your views on plastic packaging? Is it necessary?

WRITING TASK
Your debating team has been given the motion 'This house believes that plastic bags should be banned.' You have been asked to prepare a speech that disagrees with the motion.

1. The name of materials that are no longer useful and thrown away is either 'rubbish' or 'waste'.
2. It is impossible to photograph the Pacific Gyre from satellites or aircraft because it is just under the water.
3. Plastic is used and then thrown away. It is impossible to destroy, so it is thrown into rubbish tips. It finds its way into the sea and is carried into the Pacific Ocean where it builds up with other rubbish.
4. The Pacific Gyre has doubled in size over the last ten years.
5. The feature says that there is nothing that can be done now to reduce the Pacific Gyre. It is too big and it is here to stay.

LEVEL THREE SUGGESTED ANSWERS

The Biggest Dump in the World

Did You Know?

In 2006, the United Nations Environment Programme said that there were 46,000 pieces of floating plastic in every square mile of ocean.

In 1997, an American sailor called Charles Moore was sailing across the Pacific Ocean. Halfway across, he saw that his boat was floating above a huge amount of rubbish. Miles from anywhere with no land in sight, this seemed very unusual and when he returned to America, he decided to investigate how the rubbish had gotten there.

What Had Charles Moore Discovered?

He had discovered something that is called the Pacific Gyre. The Pacific Gyre is a large amount of rubbish that has collected together. The Pacific Gyre is about 20 metres deep and weighs about

3.5 million tons. It floats just under the surface of the water and it is impossible to photograph from satellites or aircraft.

What Caused The Pacific Gyre?

The main reason for the Pacific Gyre is the widespread use of plastic. Most waste today is made from plastic. It is impossible to destroy plastic, so it is usually thrown into rubbish tips and then finds its way into the sea. The plastic slowly breaks down into tiny pieces. Because of the currents in the sea, the waste is carried into the Pacific Ocean. Over time, other rubbish attaches itself to the plastic and it makes a large collection of rubbish.

Is There Anything That Can Be Done?

Many scientists believe that the Pacific Gyre has doubled in size over the past ten years. Dr Simon Boxall from the National Oceanographic Centre in England believes that there is no solution to this problem. He said, "There is nothing we can do. It's too big, and it's here to stay. It's like nuclear waste. Even oil eventually breaks down. Plastic does not. We've got to become better about how we dispose of waste."

TYPHOON CLUB ANALYSIS

Level	4
Word Count	323
Characters per word	4.4
Words per sentence	12.0

THEMATIC VOCABULARY

dump	rubbish	plastic	break down	waste
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LEVEL FOUR QUESTIONS

1. Describe why Charles Moore became interested in investigating rubbish.
2. Provide another phrase to express 'dispose of'.
3. Provide three ways in which plastic collects in the ocean.
4. What does Dr Simon Boxall compare plastic to?
5. Explain what 'break down' means.
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Suggest alternatives to packaging products and making products without using plastic?

WRITING TASK
Your debating team has been given the motion 'This house believes that plastic bags should be banned.' You have been asked to prepare a speech that disagrees with the motion.

1. Charles Moore was an American sailor. When he was sailing across the Pacific Ocean he saw his boat was floating above a huge amount of rubbish. He wanted to find out where it came from.
2. Another phrase for 'dispose of' is 'get rid of,' 'discard,' or 'eliminate'.
3. Plastic finds its way into the ocean from rubbish tips. It slowly breaks down into tiny pieces. The currents carry the plastic further into the sea and it attaches itself onto other plastic.
4. Dr Simon Boxall compares plastic to nuclear waste. It does not break down.
5. 'Break down' means to decompose. If a product is biodegradable it will decompose through time.

LEVEL FOUR SUGGESTED ANSWERS