

Reading Activity: 65 Pounds of Plastic Trash Tore This Whale Apart from the Inside

Link: https://www.livescience.com/62266-dead-sperm-whale-plastic-bags.html?utm_source=notification



**MY MIND
MY POWER**
Constructing meaning. Learning power.

1. **Pre-Reading:** On YouTube, look up the keywords Ocean, Plastic Trash, five a five minute or shorter clip, then answer: “What is the most startling fact you learned from the clip?” Explain why it startled you.

3. **Cause, Effect, Extrapolate:** Connect the throwing of plastics away with effects the article mentions, support these effects with a quote, then use critical thinking to extrapolate possible long-term effects.

Cause: Every person consumes lots of things That produce trash	Cause: The trash that humans produce includes many different plastics
Short Term Effect: _____ _____ _____	Short Term Effect: _____ _____ _____
“ _____ _____ _____ ”	“ _____ _____ _____ ”
Extrapolate: _____ _____ _____	Extrapolate: _____ _____ _____

5. **Inquiry:** After reading and reviewing the article, create five level 2 or level 3 divergent questions that can lead to gaining further knowledge about trash in the ocean (1 point per Question):

* _____

* _____

* _____

* _____

* _____

2. **Vocabulary:** Using your knowledge, the article, or approved research techniques, select the matching definitions and/or synonyms for each vocabulary term:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Wildlife | a. An aquatic animal, it is the largest species of mammal on the earth. |
| 2. _____ Abdominal | b. Flora and fauna found in their natural habitat (n.) |
| 3. _____ Whale | c. Surroundings, setting, ecosystem (n.) |
| 4. _____ Mammal | d. a warm-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, the secretion of milk by females for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) the birth of live young. (n.) |
| 5. _____ Environment | e. Stomach, belly, intestinal area (adj.) |

4. **Multiple Choice:** Select the best possible answer from the options provided:

- According to the statistics given in the article, about how many kilograms makes up a pound?

a. 2.0 kg/1.0 lb.	c. 2.5 kg/1.0 lb.
b. 2.25 kg/1.0 lb.	d. 3.25 kg/1.0 lb.
- In a classroom of 25 students, about how many pieces of trash would be contributed to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

a. 5,750	c. 6,250
b. 6,000	d. 6,500
- What number best shows the ratio of tons to metric tons?

a. 4:1.1	c. 2:1.1
b. 3:1.1	d. 1:1.1
- If there was a “World Ocean Clean Day” and 5 hundred billion pieces of trash were picked up, how many years would a “World Ocean Clean Day” need to happen if all garbage dumping in the ocean stopped forever.

a. 5 Years	c. 15 Years
b. 10 Years	d. 20 Years
- What do you think the author’s purpose is for writing this article?

a. To raise awareness about the damage human waste can cause to the ecosystem.	c. To tell a story about how whales and other creatures eat trash on accident
b. To call attention to the need to use other materials besides plastic for our consumables	d. To predict the how the Sperm Whale will become extinct

6. **Evidence support:** Look at the choice you made for Multiple Choice Question #5, identify lines from the text that support your answer and provide explanations and connections to make your logic clear:

Line From Text	Explanation & Connection
<i>Any line from the text, put in quotations to indicate the words are not yours</i>	<i>Explain what the line means and make a clear connection to your choice above.</i>
“ _____ _____ _____ ”	_____ _____ _____
“ _____ _____ _____ ”	_____ _____ _____

7. **Tone:** What word would you use to describe the tone the author uses within this article?

Cautious, Shameful, Hopeful, Reflective

I would use the word _____ because

One line from the article that supports my conclusion is, “_____

_____” and another line states, “_____”

9. **Counterclaims:** Look at the argument you stated in Question #8, list five counterclaims a person could make to challenge your argument:

First, a person might argue against me by saying _____

Next, a person could argue against me by stating _____

Third, a person may argue _____

Of the three listed above, I think number _____ is the strongest because

11. **Inquiry:** Using approved research techniques, research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Who:	What: Great Pacific Garbage Patch
When:	Where:
Why is it important to History, why do we study it so many years after it happened?	
1. _____ _____	
2. _____ _____	
3. _____ _____	

8. **Critical Thinking:** Some people think that people or countries that lack controls on garbage disposal should be fined or face international pressure to change, while other people argue that it is up to those people and countries to change themselves? Who do you think is responsible for making these changes individual people or countries or outside influences?

I think it is _____ because _____

For example _____

Furthermore, _____

10. **Conclusion:** What is the best conclusion you can draw from what the article writes, check the one you think is best and explain why:

- If humans don't change, we could destroy the world
- It is up to humans to positively change the world
- Humans need to consume less in order to produce less trash
- To humans, trash is as good as out of sight out of mind

The reason I chose the one I did is because _____

The text supports this by saying, “_____

_____” One other example not in

the text is _____

12. **Creativity:** Based on your answer to number eight, create a small logo that you think might communicate to others your opinion about trash management:

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- 5 – Excellent, proficient detail, space is full
- 4.5 – Good, proficient detail, space is mostly full
- 4.0 – Average (+) sufficient detail, space is over half full
- 3.5 – Average (-), sufficient detail, space is about half full
- 3.0 – Below Average, marginal detail, space less than half full
- 2.5 – Effort, Detail and descriptiveness are insufficient
- 0.0 – No Data

3. **Cause, Effect, Extrapolate:** Connect the throwing of plastics away with effects the article mentions, support these effects with a quote, then use critical thinking to extrapolate possible long-term effects.

Cause: Every person consumes lots of things	Cause: The trash that humans produce
That produce trash	includes many different plastics
Short Term Effect:	Short Term Effect:
5 – Very Logical reasons, clear connection of quotes 4.5 – Very Logical reasons, sufficient connection of quotes 4.0 – Logical reasons, quotes show connection 3.5 – Logical reasons, quotes show weak connection 3.0 – Logical reasons, quotes seem irrelevant 2.5 – Logic is not clear and/or quotes show no connections 0.0 – No Data	
Extrapolate:	Extrapolate:

5. **Inquiry:** After reading and reviewing the article, create five level 2 or level 3 divergent questions that can lead to gaining further knowledge about trash in the ocean (1 Point Per Question)

* _____

* _____

* _____

* _____

* _____

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2. **Vocabulary:** Using your knowledge, the article, or approved research techniques, select the matching definitions and/or synonyms for each vocabulary term:

- 1. B Wildlife a. An aquatic animal, it is the largest species of mammal on the earth.
- 2. E Abdominal b. Flora and fauna found in their natural habitat (n.)
- 3. A Whale c. Surroundings, setting, ecosystem (n.)
- 4. D Mammal d. a warm-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, the secretion of milk by females for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) the birth of live young. (n.)
- 5. C Environment e. Stomach, belly, intestinal area (adj.)

4. **Multiple Choice:** Select the best possible answer from the options provided:

- According to the statistics given in the article, about how many kilograms makes up a pound?
 - a. 2.0 kg/1.0 lb.
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- What number best shows the ratio of tons to metric tons?
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 - a. 5 Years
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- What do you think the author's purpose is for writing this article?
 - a. To raise awareness about the damage human waste can cause to the ecosystem.
 - b. To call attention to the need to use other materials besides plastic for our consumables
 - c. To tell a story about how whales and other creatures eat trash on accident
 - d. To predict the how the Sperm Whale will become extinct

6. **Evidence support:** Look at the choice you made for Multiple Choice Question #5, identify lines from the text that support your answer and provide explanations and connections to make your logic clear:

Line From Text	Explanation & Connection
<i>Any line from the text, put in quotations to indicate the words are not yours</i>	<i>Explain what the line means and make a clear connection to your choice above.</i>
“ _____ ”	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 5 – Quotes show clear connection and logic is very clear
- 4.5 – Quotes show clear connection and logic is clear
- 4.0 – Quotes show connection and logic is noticeable
- 3.5 – Quotes show connection and logic is weak
- 3.0 – Quotes show some connection, logic is suspect
- 2.5 – Quotes show no connection, logic does not make sense
- 0.0 – No Data

7. **Tone:** What word would you use to describe the tone the author uses within this article?

Cautious, Shameful, Hopeful, Reflective

I would use the word _____ because _____

On _____

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Thir _____

Of th _____

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11. **Inquiry:** Using approved research techniques, research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Who:	What: Great Pacific Garbage Patch							
When:	Where:							
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1.								
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8. **Critical Thinking:** Some people think that people or countries that lack controls on garbage disposal should be fined or face international pressure to change, while other people argue that it is up to those people and countries to change themselves? Who do you think is responsible for making these changes individual people or countries or outside influences?

I think it is _____ because _____

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Furthermore, _____

10. **Conclusion:** What is the best conclusion you can draw from what the article writes, check the one you think is best and explain why:

- If humans don't change, we could destroy the world
- It is up to humans to positively change the world
- Humans need to consume less in order to produce less trash
- To humans, trash is as good as out of sight out of mind

The re _____

Advice: Just grade the support, but discuss the conclusion as a class

The te _____

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the text is _____

12. **Creativity:** Based on your answer to number eight, create a small logo that you think might communicate to others your opinion about trash management:

5 – Very Logical reasons, clear connection to #8
4.5 – Very Logical reasons, sufficient connection to #8
4.0 – Logical reasons, quotes show some connection to #8
3.5 – Logical reasons, quotes show weak connection #8
3.0 – Logical reasons, seems irrelevant
2.5 – Logic is not clear and/or quotes show no connections
0.0 – No Data