

Name

Date

The Problem with Plastics

 April 13, 2018

Use this week's cover story to answer the questions. For each question, circle the letter next to the best answer.

Read for Details (RI.3.1; RI.4.1)

1. How many tons of plastic trash does the ocean contain?

- A. 165 million tons
- B. 500 million tons
- C. 5 billion tons
- D. 13 billion tons

Define Words in Context (RI.3.4; RI.4.4)

2. According to the article, most plastic is not biodegradable (paragraph 5). This means it will

- A. break down easily into harmless products.
- B. never break down at all.
- C. vanish without a trace in a few months.
- D. only break down in the sun.

Identify Claims and Evidence (RI.3.8; RI.4.8)

3. The author writes, "The world has a plastics problem." What evidence supports this claim?

- A. "All kinds of plastics are piling up in landfills."
- B. "In 32 years, plastic in the ocean could outweigh all the fish."
- C. "[Plastic] endangers marine life, and even ends up in the food we eat."
- D. all of the above

Analyze Photos (RI.3.7; RI.4.7)

4. Which photo shows a solution to the problem of plastic waste?

- A. the photo of waste floating in the ocean
- B. the photo of the kids cleaning up the beach
- C. the photo of the crocodile with a tire around its neck
- D. the photo of edible spoons

Identify Author's Purpose (RI.3.6; RI.4.6)

5. The author wrote this article to

- A. inform readers of the problems caused by our use of plastics.
- B. compare the effects of air and plastics pollution.
- C. argue against the use of microbeads in products.
- D. describe how the United States is cutting down on plastic waste.

Draw Conclusions (RI.3.1; RI.4.1)

6. You can tell from reading this article that the problem with plastics

- A. is too big to solve.
- B. can be solved, but it won't be easy.
- C. will have to be solved by future scientists.
- D. can be solved by recycling alone.

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Explain Key Concepts (RI.3.3; RI.4.3)

7. "Sunlight causes plastic to become brittle. Ocean waves then break it into smaller pieces." These two sentences demonstrate

- A. a persuasive argument.
- B. cause and effect.
- C. problem and solution.
- D. compare and contrast.

Identify Main Idea (RI.3.2; RI.4.2)

8. The section titled "The Last Straw" describes

- A. solutions to the plastics problem.
- B. effects of plastics pollution.
- C. causes of plastics pollution.
- D. problems that plastics cause for fish.

Read for Details (RI.3.1; RI.4.1)

9. Which country outlawed products containing microbeads?

- A. Britain
- B. Rwanda
- C. Scotland
- D. Taiwan

Note Nonfiction Features (RI.3.7; RI.4.7)

10. What do you learn by reading the sidebar "Chew on This" that you don't learn from the main article?

- A. People around the world are looking for ways to reduce plastic waste.
- B. To reduce plastic waste, we will have to change some of our habits.
- C. One way to reduce plastic waste is to make products edible.
- D. We can make certain choices that reduce the amount of plastic waste we create.

Bonus Which fact from the article best supports the idea that we have to reduce plastic waste? Explain your choice.
