

Name _____

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A Floating Pollution Challenge

Short Answer Key

1. The primary mechanism responsible for the formation of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the convergence of ocean currents, particularly the North Pacific Gyre, which traps and concentrates marine litter.
2. Plastic debris in the ocean is harmful to marine life because it can be ingested or lead to entanglement, causing injury or death. Additionally, plastics can introduce toxic chemicals into the marine food chain.
3. Sunlight, waves, and ocean currents contribute to the breakdown of plastics in the GPGP by physically breaking them into smaller particles and promoting chemical degradation.
4. The presence of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch can negatively impact the fishing and tourism industries by affecting water quality, damaging marine ecosystems, and deterring visitors.
5. Chris Jordan uses his artwork to draw attention to the issue of plastic pollution in the oceans by creating visual representations of the scale of the problem, inspiring awareness and action.

