

Name _____

Plastic Peril: Understanding the Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Water Bodies

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Proper waste disposal practices, such as recycling, composting, and landfill management, are essential for preventing plastic pollution in water bodies. By ensuring that waste is disposed of properly, we can reduce the likelihood of plastic debris entering rivers, streams, and oceans, thus protecting marine ecosystems and the organisms that depend on them.
2. Government regulations and policies play a crucial role in addressing plastic pollution by setting standards for waste management, imposing restrictions on single-use plastics, and promoting sustainable alternatives. Through legislation, enforcement, and public education initiatives, governments can create a regulatory framework that incentivizes responsible waste management practices and reduces plastic pollution in water bodies.
3. Individuals and communities have a responsibility to reduce plastic pollution through actions such as reducing plastic consumption, properly disposing of waste, participating in cleanup efforts, and advocating for policy changes. By making conscious choices in their daily lives and supporting initiatives that promote plastic-free alternatives, individuals can contribute to the collective effort to combat plastic pollution and protect water bodies for future generations.
4. Plastic pollution has far-reaching impacts on marine biodiversity, ecosystem health, and human well-being. As plastic debris accumulates in water bodies, it poses risks to aquatic organisms, disrupts food chains, and contaminates seafood consumed by humans. By addressing the root causes of plastic pollution and implementing effective mitigation measures, we can safeguard water quality, protect marine ecosystems, and mitigate the adverse effects of plastic pollution on the environment and society.

