

Name _____

Tackling the Plastic Pollution Plague in Our Oceans

Short Answer Key

1. Plastic pollution impacts marine life by causing entanglement (e.g., in fishing nets), ingestion of plastic particles, and chemical contamination from absorbed toxins. For example, sea turtles can ingest plastic bags, mistaking them for jellyfish, leading to digestive issues or death.
2. Microplastics are tiny plastic particles, often less than 5mm in size. They are a significant concern because they can be ingested by marine organisms, accumulate in their tissues, and potentially enter the human food chain, posing health risks.
3. Oceanographers combat plastic pollution by conducting research to understand its extent and impact, developing cleanup initiatives, monitoring microplastics, advocating for awareness, and providing input for policies and regulations.
4. Individuals can reduce plastic pollution by using reusable bags, bottles, and containers, recycling properly, avoiding single-use plastics, participating in beach cleanups, and supporting organizations and policies aimed at reducing plastic waste.
5. Public awareness and education about plastic pollution are crucial to inspire behavior changes, promote responsible consumption, and support initiatives to reduce plastic waste. Informed individuals can make better choices and advocate for change.

