

Name _____

Tackling the Plastic Pollution Plague in Our Oceans

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Leading a cleanup initiative in a heavily affected region would involve challenges such as logistics, resource allocation, and waste disposal. Strategies would include mobilizing volunteers, using specialized equipment for collection, collaborating with local communities, raising awareness, and advocating for stricter regulations on plastic use and disposal.
2. Plastic pollution is a global issue with far-reaching consequences. It affects ecosystems worldwide, disrupts food chains, and harms human health. Collaboration is vital because ocean currents can transport plastic across borders. International cooperation can lead to shared responsibility and effective solutions.
3. If no action is taken, plastic pollution will continue to degrade marine ecosystems, harm biodiversity, and impact coastal communities reliant on fisheries and tourism. The long-term consequences could include reduced food security, economic losses, and irreversible damage to marine life.
4. Policymakers can implement measures like banning single-use plastics, incentivizing recycling, and regulating plastic production. Oceanographers can provide scientific data, research findings, and policy recommendations to shape effective regulations and strategies to combat plastic pollution.

