

Reading Guide C:

Ocean Trash: 5.25 Trillion Pieces and Counting

Website: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/news/ocean-trash-525-trillion-pieces-and-counting-big-questions-remain>

NOTE: Select sixth-grade level text to answer the questions below.

1. What information are scientists still working to learn about ocean plastics?

2. Large pieces of plastic (macroplastics) and small pieces of plastic (microplastics) have different effects on marine organisms, and scientists don't know which is more harmful. If you were a scientist, how could you figure out whether macroplastics or microplastics are more harmful?

3. "We already know that plastic in the oceans is killing animals and harming the environment. Scientists should stop doing research and focus on fixing the problem." Do you agree or disagree with this opinion, and why?

4. How do scientists collect new data about ocean plastics? What kinds of evidence do they look for?

5. Pretend you are a scientist on the *Sea Dragon* studying ocean plastics. Write a journal entry describing what you find on the third day of your voyage.

6. When you return to your project group, what information can you share with them from this resource about how to update and improve your model of ocean plastic transport?
