

Reading Guide D: *Sailing Seas of Plastic*

Website: <https://app.dumpark.com/seas-of-plastic-2/#>

NOTE: Each tiny dot on this map represents 20 kg (about 44 pounds) of plastic. This is about the weight of an average six-year-old child.

1. Spend five minutes exploring this interactive website freely. What did you find? What questions do you have?

2. Now, go back to the main page. Find the Gulf of Mexico and zoom in so that you can see the coastline of the United States and Mexico. What do you notice? What do you wonder?

3. Zoom out so you can see the whole map. Then answer the following questions.
 - a. Which areas of the ocean seem to have the most plastic pollution? Create a hypothesis to explain why this might be.

- b. Which areas of the ocean seem to have the least plastic pollution? Create a hypothesis to explain why this might be.

c. Which areas of the coastline seem to have the most plastic pollution?
Create a hypothesis to explain why this might be.

d. Which areas of the coastline seem to have the least plastic pollution?
Create a hypothesis to explain why this might be.

4. Click on Expeditions at the bottom of the screen. Then click on the blue tab on the right side that says Expedition Stages. Now click on the first expedition, Austral Fisheries - Reisser J12-12(f). Answer the following questions based on the map you see.

a. What size of plastic was most commonly found on this expedition?
Include units.

b. What size of plastic was least commonly found on this expedition?
Include units.

c. Compare the amount of plastic found in the first half of the expedition to the amount of plastic found in the second half of the expedition.
Create a hypothesis to explain why this might be

d. What evidence would you need to support your hypothesis?

e. What evidence would disprove your hypothesis?

5. 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?
