

AUSTRALIAN MARINE DEBRIS INITIATIVE



Early years F-3

Lesson 5

Explain

Introduction

Hi everyone,

How are you? I'm very impressed with how much learning you are all doing on the marine debris issue. By now you have learnt what marine debris is, how it gets into the ocean and understand that we all need to use less plastic in our daily lives. Even though plastic is useful, it just isn't meant to be in the environment!

I'll tell you another reason why plastic is no good when it ends up in our environment well, when it gets into our waterways it doesn't disappear, it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces.

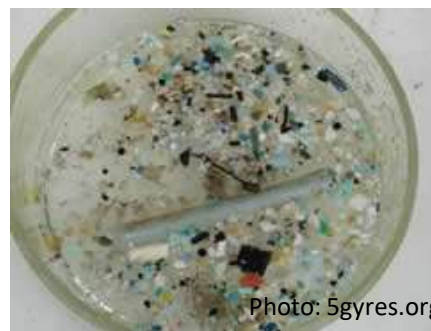
It confuses us marine animals because it can look just like small fish, shells or even sand. We eat it, it makes us sick and then when you eat fish, these little bits of plastic end up in your body! Who wants to eat plastic?

I have some really good pictures for you to look at that will help explain.

Hope you like them.

Love from Malmo

The plastic starts off being big and then breaks down into smaller pieces in the ocean



The plastic can also start off being small and get even smaller!



These are called plastic resin pellets. They are small bits of plastic that get melted in a factory to make all the different plastic things we use.

Sometimes they spill into the ocean before they have been melted in the factory.

They are very dangerous to animals and hard to clean up.

They look like sand!

Look what happens to us



Photo: Chris Jordan

Then cool animals like me eat the small bits of plastic because they look like little fish or other marine animals that we might eat.

Look what was found in this rainbow runner's stomach!



Photo: Algalita

Have you ever eaten fish before? It might have had plastic in its stomach.

Here's a little video about a shipment of toys that spill overboard



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKXR2Goe_IA

I hope my letter has helped you understand more about the marine debris issue

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM7HgOGZPEc>



How are you going with your ideas about how to help?

Here's a video clip about how to make a skipping rope out of plastic bags!

Protect Our Oceans