

MICROPLASTICS/ PLASTIC

Microplastics are a type of plastic debris that is smaller than 5 millimeters in length, or about the size of a pencil eraser. These small particles and bigger types of plastic like plastic bags are the main types of pollution that affect our oceans ecosystem and organisms. For marine life like sea turtles plastic bags are the biggest threat. They will mistake the bags for jellyfish and when the plastic is ingested it can result to damage in their intestines, resulting in starvation. Another issue for reproduction is if there is debris on the shore mother sea turtles will not lay there eggs or hatchlings will get stuck in the debris when leaving the nest.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

This is a reduction in the pH of the ocean over a long period of time, caused by uptake of Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere.

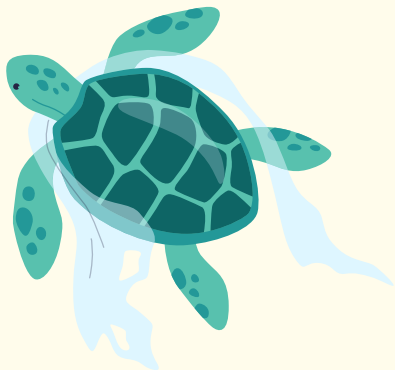
This type of pollution makes it difficult for organisms that form the base of the food web to form their shells or survive. This reduces the food available for higher up the food web, like sea turtles. As well as lead to decreased water quality for the marinelife.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Light pollution, or artificial light at night, is the excessive or poor use of artificial outdoor light. This type of pollution disrupts the natural patterns of wildlife. For hatchlings this is a very big issue because it causes them to become disoriented and wander inland, where they often die of dehydration or predation. Decreasing the chances of sea turtles to reach adulthood.

HOW POLLUTION AFFECTS OUR OCEANS EGOSYSTEM AND MARINELIFE

SPECIFICALLY SEA TURTLES



MORE DATA/STATISTICS

- Only 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 10,000 sea turtles survive to adulthood
- Typically in the Caribbean there will be around 3,000 nests a year however because of pollution nests have decreased.
- With the help of ocean clean-ups Chelonia has been able to get around 300 leather back turtle nests protected in only 2.6 miles of beach.

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WAYS WE CAN HELP REDUCE POLLUTION

- Use reusable straws
- Use reusable tote bags instead of plastic bags when going shopping
- Bring your own utensils instead of plastic ones
- Recycle plastic
- Never leave trash in the environment
- Use reusable beeswax wraps
- Use a reusable water bottles
- Participate in coastal clean-ups
- Say no to straws at fast food restaurants



-FUN FACTS-

ABOUT LEATHER BACK SEA TURTLES

- They are the largest turtles in the world
- Can weigh up to 2,200 pounds
- They can dive about 4,000 ft which is deepest any turtle can go.
- They swim over 10,000 miles each year to reach nesting grounds.
- They are the only turtles that can change their body temperature to sustain any temperature of water.
- They have existed since the time of the dinosaurs
- Are the only turtles without a hard shell

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Thanks

The more we try to reduce our pollution the greater the impact we can make on our oceans ecosystems in keeping the marine life safe, keeping the oceans a safe place for us, and more.

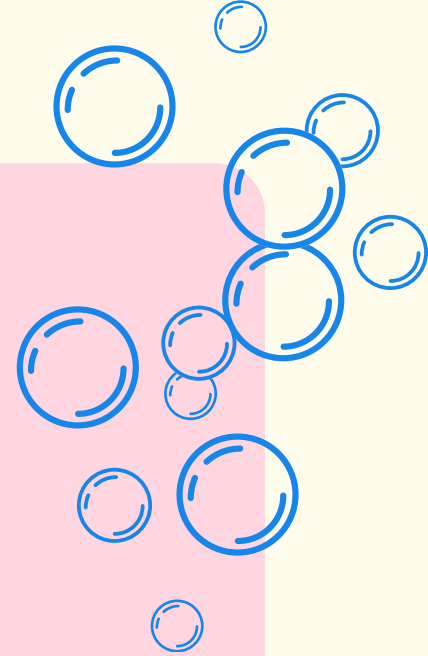
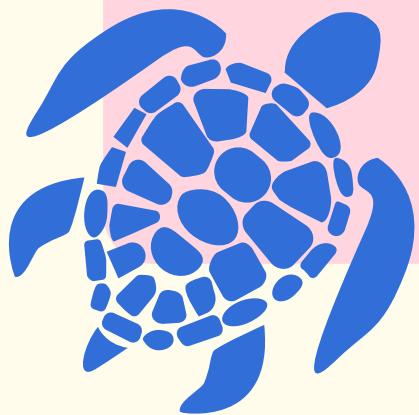
I PLEDGE TO:

Teach 3 others about the affects of pollution to our oceans

Use one of the ways to reduce pollution in your own life

Signature

**HOW
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