NAME: ___________________________  DATE: __________________

READING: An Ocean of Garbage

Vocabulary Preview

• Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1. factory ______ E. to stay on or near the surface of water
2. disposable ____ B. a cover that people use to protect things
3. wrapping ____ C. to fall apart into small pieces
4. float (v.) ____ D. to change something so that it can be used again
5. plastic ____ E. building(s) where people make things
6. break down (v.) ____ F. a material used to make bottles, bags, toys, etc..
7. chemicals ____ G. materials, some of which are dangerous to health
8. recycle ____ H. able to be thrown away after using a short time

• Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms (-s) when necessary.

1. Lead and mercury are examples of dangerous __________.

2. This water bottle is made from __________, not glass.

3. I work in a __________ that makes cars.

4. Planes fly in the air, and boats __________ on water.

5. Don’t just throw away old newspapers. You can __________ them.

6. Some kinds of garbage can __________ and disappear after many years.

7. Most things we buy nowadays use __________ to protect them.

8. Empty plastic bottles are __________. People usually throw them away.

• Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. ___________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________________

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingstopics.com
An Ocean of Garbage

With so many factories that make disposable toothbrushes, pens, cans, bottles and wrappings, garbage is a very big problem in our world today. You may think that garbage is everywhere. Well, you’re right. It is everywhere! A good (and scary) example of this is the ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch was first discovered by scientists in the 1980s. It is an area of floating garbage in the Pacific Ocean that is about the same size as Texas. There are many kinds of garbage in the Garbage Patch, but plastic bottles and bags, and other things made of plastic cause the biggest problem. ‘What’s the problem?’ you may ask. First, plastic bottles and bags may take hundreds or maybe even thousands of years to break down. Second, plastic is made from chemicals. As the plastics break down over time, chemicals enter the water – and enter the fish that live in the water. These chemicals can make the fish sick, and they can also make the people who eat the fish sick. So … what can we do? There are many things we can do! We can clean up our oceans, we can stop making so many things from plastic, and we can recycle more. The important thing is to do something!

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingstopics.com
READING
Grammar Practice
An Ocean of Garbage

Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

With so many factories that make disposable toothbrushes, pens, cans, bottles and wrappings, garbage (1)_____
( A) is    (B) are    (C) were
a very big problem in our world today. You may think that garbage is everywhere. Well, (2)_____
( A) your    (B) you’re    (C) yours
right. It is everywhere! A good (and scary) example of this is the ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (3)_____
( A) was    (B) is    (C) were
first discovered by scientists (4)_____
( A) at    (B) on    (C) in
the 1980s. It is an area of floating garbage in the Pacific Ocean that is about the same size as Texas. (5)_____
( A) at    (B) on    (C) in
are many kinds of garbage in the Garbage Patch, but plastic bottles and bags, and other things made of plastic cause (6)_____
( A) at    (B) on    (C) in
problem. ‘What’s the problem?’ you may (7)_____
( A) ask    (B) asked    (C) asks.
First, plastic bottles and bags may take hundreds or maybe even thousands of years to break down. Second, plastic is made from chemicals. As the plastics break down over time, chemicals enter the water – and enter the fish (8)_____
( A) that    (B) who    (C) where
live in the water. (9)_____
( A) That    (B) This    (C) These
chemicals can make the fish sick, and they can also make the people (10)_____
( A) that    (B) who    (C) where
eat the fish sick. So … what can we do? There are many things we can do! We can clean
(11)_____
( A) at    (B) on    (C) in
our oceans, we can stop making so many things from plastic, and we can recycle more. The important thing is to do (12)_____
( A) somewhere    (B) something    (C) someone!
NAME: ________________________________ DATE: ________________

READING: An Ocean of Garbage

How Much Do You Understand?

- Write ‘T’ (True) or ‘F’ (False) next to each statement.

1. _____ Factories are a big problem.
2. _____ The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is near Texas.
3. _____ Garbage made from plastic is a serious problem.
4. _____ Scientists discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch hundreds of years ago.
5. _____ Chemicals can make both fish and people sick.
6. _____ There are many things we can do to fix this problem.

Discuss

- Discuss the following questions with your classmates.

1. How does this article make you feel? Why?
2. Do you ever recycle things? Why? / Why not?
3. How can people live without things made from plastic? Is it possible?

Write

- Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use. © www.allthingstopics.com
Lesson “An Ocean of Garbage”

Grammar Focus
Mixed (includes modals such as ‘may’ and ‘can’)

Vocabulary
211 words
A1 words-71% / A2 words-14% / B1 words-6% / B2 words- 1%

AWL Words in this text: area, chemicals

Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level
Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

• Vocabulary

1. E 1. chemicals
2. H 2. plastic
3. B 3. factory
4. A 4. float
5. F 5. recycle
6. C 6. break down
7. G 7. wrappings
8. D 8. disposable

ANSWER KEY Page 3

• Article

1. A 7. A
2. B 8. A
3. A 9. C
5. C 11. C

ANSWER KEY Page 4

• How Much Do You Understand?

1. F (Garbage is a big problem.)
2. F (It’s in the Pacific Ocean.)
3. T
4. F (They discovered it in the 1980s.)
5. T
6. T

Article Sources:

- http://garbagepatch.net/greatpacificoceangarbagepatchfacts/
- https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/patch.html
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkfAnQtlUCw