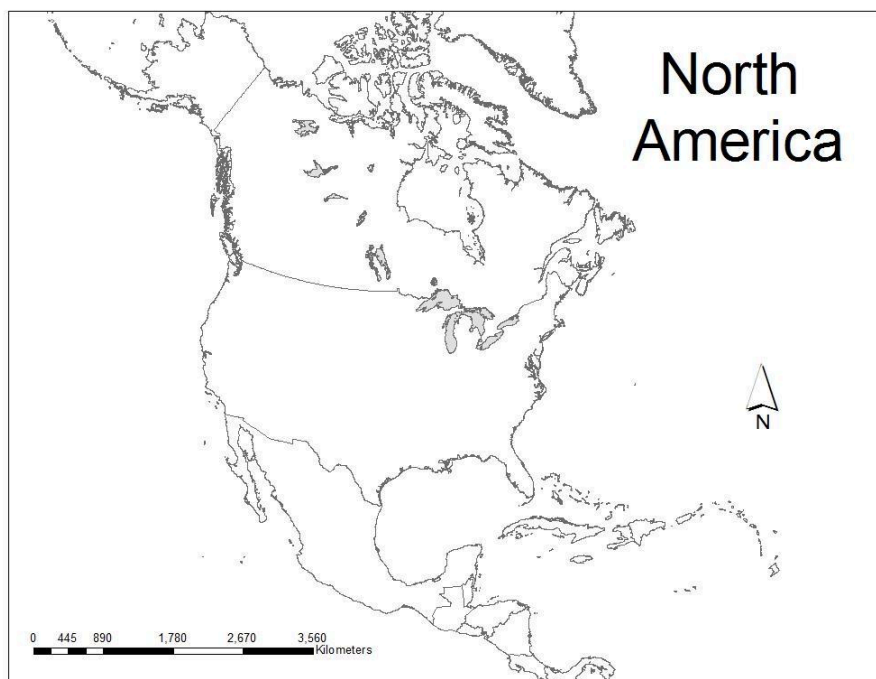


Name _____ Date _____

Investigation 4-1: Animals of Ocean Ecosystems

Group Reporting Sheet:



STEP 1: Visit the following website to obtain information about your animal:

<https://oceanconservancy.org/wildlife-facts/?showall=true>

- ❖ Name of the Animal: _____
- ✓ Mark the map with the name and location of the Ocean Ecosystem of the animal
- ❖ What information did you gather about the animal's ecosystem?

STEP 2: Read Article 4-1: Death by Plastic.

- ✓ Mark the map with the location(s) of plastic pollution affecting your animal.
- ❖ How does your animal interact with plastic? Do you have evidence of human activities that affect your animal?

STEP 3: Answer the following questions based on the information you obtained.

a) What do you observe about the ocean ecosystem?

b) Are your animal's needs met in the ecosystem?

Name _____ Date _____

Article 4-1: Death by Plastic

People throw away about 4 million tons of trash every day! About 12.8% of that waste is plastic. Americans buy more bottled water than any other nation in the world, adding 29 billion water bottles a year to the ecosystem. That is a lot of plastic pollution. Plastic pollution impacts many animals of ocean ecosystems.

Plastic pollution starts on land when people do not properly throw out plastic water bottles. The plastic pollution ends up in the ocean. It floats on the surface of the ocean, sinks to the bottom of the ocean, and breaks up into tiny pieces. A plastic bottle can be thrown out very far from the ocean, but if it ends up in a river, the plastic bottle can move all the way to the ocean.

Plastic pollution is not always noticeable. That's because plastic breaks into tiny pieces of plastic about the size of one grain of rice. Small organisms, like Zooplankton, eat the tiny pieces of plastic. This unhealthy substance transfers to the animals that prey on Zooplankton. Also, fish and crabs breathe the tiny pieces.

Floating plastic pollution harms animals. Animals that eat the zooplankton also eat the larger floating plastic by mistake. Plastic breaks coral reefs or smothers the animals that make coral, the coral polyps.



In July 2017, underwater photographer Huai Su filmed a diver collecting endless amounts of plastic bottles that litter the seafloor.

Scientists examine dead animals and sometimes find plastic in their stomachs. The photograph to the left shows a Laysan Albatrosses' stomach filled with plastic items, like water bottle caps. Scientists also find animals such as sea turtles tangled in plastic.

Scientists list over 100 different animals that eat plastic by mistake. This table lists some of the animals and how plastic harms them.

Caught in Plastic	Eats Plastic	Breathes Plastic	Covered in plastic
Sea turtle	Sea turtle	Fish (gills) Like Atlantic Cod	Coral
Seal	Seal	Crabs	
Sea lion	Jelly fish		
Jelly fish	Crabs		
Osprey bird	Whale		
Whale	Fish (like Atlantic Cod)		
	Birds (Like Laysan Albatross)		





Name _____ Date _____

Explanation 4-1

Question: How do plastic water bottles affect animals in the ocean?

Claim: _____

Evidence:

Reasoning: _____

Teacher Feedback:

	Comments
Claim	
Evidence	
Reasoning	

Name _____ Date _____

Exit Slip 4-1

Instructions: Answer the questions with as much detail as you can.

The tiger salamander absorbs water through its skin.



1. How is this an example of Earth's systems interacting?

2. Give another example of Earth's systems interacting in the vernal pool.
