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## PLASTIC: DEMOLISHING WILDLIFE WHEREVER IT GOES

The world is creating islands, most of which we are unaware of. They are all made up of one main material. Plastic. Plastic islands are becoming a problem because they are growing rapidly in our oceans. When plastic islands are formed they can impact the wildlife around it. As the islands grow, animals get attracted to this new chunk of plastic mush, but staying there for too long would end up poisoning them. Because we use plastic in so many things, stopping its use is going to be a lot harder than it seems. The only way we can prevent that is to stop throwing trash into the ocean.

The most famous plastic island is the Pacific Garbage patch, a condensation of trash about as big as Texas. It forms because currents around the edges of Earth's seas move in a circular motion slowly, but fast enough that all the plastic, of which is mostly bigger items like bottles, gets trapped in the middle and stays there. The main, and most obvious cause comes from landfills. To clear these dumps out, the bigger trash pit they use is the sea. When the world is your oyster, why not use the sea for your trash? Because then you might not get to have sayings like the world is your oyster because there will not be many oysters left. But arguably, an even bigger

issue than animals dying is its impact on the environment, because that could end up harming another animal – us.

The plastic we use can be toxic, too. It attracts marine life, which can end up eating the plastic. Even if some shy away from the seemingly tasty meal, when the plastic breaks down it can poison the life under the sea. As they break down, the plastics can release toxins that harm any animal that gets too much. Because of our frequent use of plastics, we probably have some of those toxins in us, too. When we drink out of a plastic bottle and then throw it away after? More plastic toxins for us, more garbage in the patch for the ocean. There are even enough toxins for scientists to measure them in our bodies.

Reducing the plastic we use might be the key to getting it out of the sea, because if the clean-up rate is faster than the dumping rate, we might be able to save our sea friends. One way we can do this is to use biodegradable plastics, so they will not be harmful to the planet when we do need to throw it away. One of the hardest parts of doing that is because of the wide range of uses plastic has. We use it in everything from phones to cars to shower curtains. But the science shows that we have to stop using plastic, for us, and for the sea.

Our throwing of plastic into the ocean must stop to keep the plastic islands from growing and attracting sea animals that end up getting poisoned because of it. We can help by trying to stop plastic from getting to the sea in the first place. I hope that this report has made you more aware of the islands few know about and why they must be taken out.