## **Ocean Pollution Affecting Sea Animals**

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Imagine that you're on vacation swimming in the ocean and that you got trapped by plastic or fishing nets. Imagine that you're hunting for fish but they are affected by plastic pollution. Do you know that plastic takes from 20 years to 600 years to decompose? It could take 6 lifetimes in human years. That's very long time!

We need to keep our ocean clean and animals alive! The ocean is important because it is home to plants and animals. The oceans are polluted, and animals are not surviving, because of all the plastic in the ocean. There is already a huge garbage patch called the great pacific garbage patch, which is about twice the size of Texas and is damaging the ocean.

Sea animals drink microplastics because the ocean is being filled with them. Did you know that according to an article, I read called The Problem with Plastic, "8 million metric tons of plastic is in the ocean." This article also said that the garbage is the same weight as "90 aircraft carriers." Did you know that plastic bags can take many years to decompose? Some other plastics can take up to 600 years to decompose. According to the video 49% of plastics are single-use, and 27 percent are used as fishing nets. We also used forty-three percent of all marine litter contains plastics such as plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic straws, and plastic containers.

The solution is to reuse plastic by recycling plastic waste. Reduce the use of plastic bags and straws in restaurants and at home. Reuse plastic containers and plastic bags. We can also avoid single-use plastic by using reusable water bottles and glass containers. We could use less plastic bags by using cloth bags when we go to the grocery stores. Companies are helping by reusing the plastic bottles that you recycle at home to make clothes.

We need to be aware that ocean pollution is a huge problem! The sea animals need our help because they're dying from irresponsible people who do not properly dispose of their trash. We need to preserve the oceans because they are a unique ecosystem that is important to planet Earth. We need to be responsible and recycle so it will make the environment safer. Our solution is to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastics!

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