

The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Marine Life

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. Millions of tons of plastic waste enter the oceans each year, endangering marine ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. From entanglement to ingestion, marine animals suffer severe consequences due to plastic debris. This report examines the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on marine life, focusing on how it disrupts ecosystems, harms wildlife, and threatens biodiversity.

1. What is the **general topic** of the report?

2. Which sentence gives a **general statement** about plastic pollution?

3. Identify the **thesis statement / purpose of the report**.

4. Which words or phrases show that the report is Formal?

5. Are there any **linking words or expressions** in the introduction that connect ideas?

Causes of Plastic Pollution

One of the main causes of plastic pollution is **human littering**, where people dispose of plastic bottles, bags, and packaging inappropriately. Another significant cause is the **widespread use of single-use plastics**, such as straws, cutlery, and shopping bags, which are often discarded after one use. Additionally, **poor waste management systems** in many countries result in plastic waste entering rivers and eventually the oceans. Industrial activities and packaging production also contribute to the accumulation of plastic in marine environments.

Effects on Marine Life

Plastic pollution has severe consequences for marine animals and ecosystems. Many species, including turtles, seabirds, and fish, **ingest plastic**, mistaking it for food, which can cause internal injuries or death. Others become **entangled in discarded fishing nets or plastic bags**, restricting their movement and sometimes resulting in drowning. Plastic debris also **disrupts marine food chains**, as toxic substances from plastics accumulate in smaller organisms and eventually affect larger predators. Overall, these effects threaten **biodiversity** and the health of ocean ecosystems.

6. Look at the **Causes paragraph**. Can you find any **special expressions** that show cause or reason?

7. Look at the **Effects paragraph**. Identify **linking words** that show result or consequence?

8. What **formal words** are used to describe the impact on marine life?

9. How does the author organize ideas in each paragraph?

In conclusion, plastic pollution is a serious environmental problem with far-reaching consequences for marine life and ecosystems. The main causes include human littering, single-use plastics, and inadequate waste management. The effects on wildlife are severe, including ingestion, entanglement, and disruption of food chains. To reduce this problem, individuals should **recycle plastics, limit the use of single-use items, and participate in awareness campaigns**. Governments and organizations must also implement stricter waste management policies. Protecting our oceans is essential for preserving biodiversity and ensuring a sustainable environment for future generations.

10. How does the conclusion **summarize the main points** of the report?

11. Which sentences give **recommendations or solutions**?

12. Are there any **special expressions** used to indicate conclusion or summary?

13. Identify any **linking words** that show cause, effect, or sequence in the conclusion.

14. Suggest one more solution to reduce plastic pollution.

Answer key for the worksheet titled: The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Marine Life

1. What is the general topic of the report?

The effects of plastic pollution on marine life.

2. Which sentence gives a general statement about plastic pollution?

“Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time.”

3. Identify the thesis statement / purpose of the report.

“This report examines the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on marine life, focusing on how it disrupts ecosystems, harms wildlife, and threatens biodiversity.”

4. Which words or phrases show that the report is formal?

“Detimental effects,” “endangering marine ecosystems,” “threatens biodiversity,” “examines,” “severe consequences.”

5. Are there any linking words or expressions in the introduction that connect ideas?

“From entanglement to ingestion,” “due to,” “focusing on.”

6. Look at the Causes paragraph. Can you find any special expressions that show cause or reason?

“One of the main causes,” “Another significant cause,” “result in,” “contribute to.”

7. Look at the Effects paragraph. Identify linking words that show result or consequence?

“Which can cause,” “restricting their movement and sometimes resulting in,” “eventually affect,” “Overall, these effects.”

8. What formal words are used to describe the impact on marine life?

“Ingest plastic,” “internal injuries or death,” “entangled,” “restricting movement,” “disrupts marine food chains,” “threaten biodiversity,” “health of ocean ecosystems.”

9. How does the author organize ideas in each paragraph?

- **Causes paragraph:** Ideas are organized by listing the main causes of plastic pollution in order of significance.
- **Effects paragraph:** Ideas are organized by describing the types of effects on marine life, from individual animals to ecosystems, showing consequences.

10. How does the conclusion summarize the main points of the report?

It restates the main causes (human littering, single-use plastics, inadequate waste management) and the main effects (ingestion, entanglement, disruption of food chains) and emphasizes the seriousness of plastic pollution.

11. Which sentences give recommendations or solutions?

- “To reduce this problem, individuals should recycle plastics, limit the use of single-use items, and participate in awareness campaigns.”
- “Governments and organizations must also implement stricter waste management policies.”

12. Are there any special expressions used to indicate conclusion or summary?

“In conclusion,” “To reduce this problem,” “Overall...”

13. Identify any linking words that show cause, effect, or sequence in the conclusion.

“To reduce this problem,” “must also implement,” “essential for preserving biodiversity,” “ensuring a sustainable environment.”

14. Suggest one more solution to reduce plastic pollution.

Encourage companies and people to **use biodegradable materials** instead of plastic and **choose reusable items** like cloth bags, metal bottles, and containers.