

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Plastics in our Bays

TRUE OR FALSE Read the statement about plastic pollution in the boxes, decide if it is true or false, then write T or F in the bubbles.

Plastics are the most common form of marine debris.

Once in the water, plastic debris can fully biodegrade, it just takes a very long time.

Marine animals are smart enough not to mistake plastic for food, so they do not try to eat it.

Microplastics are small plastics less than 5mm and can be just as harmful as regular plastic to marine ecosystems.

All of the following kinds of plastics can be found in the bay: Mylar balloons, cigarette butts, wrappers, bottles, straws, cups, plates, bottle caps, single-use bags, and fishing line.

Proper disposal of our trash and recyclables does not help to reduce plastic pollution.



Plastics in our Bays

Look around you - plastic is everywhere. It is even in our bays, rivers and oceans, where it shouldn't be! Large plastics and microplastics (the bits of plastic you can't even see with your eyes) are floating around in our waters. As you answer the questions below, you will find yourself reflecting on this pressing issue, but will also see that society has the ability to change for a safer tomorrow. Let's focus on single-use plastic...

1. Name 15-20 single-use plastics that you may find in the bay.
2. How do these plastics get to the bay? Name ways the plastics can travel to the bay or be transported there. Think from miles away (inland), close up (shorelines), and on the water (boating).
3. When plastics get to the bay, what might happen to wildlife and to water quality?
4. Name single-use plastics that you may use frequently.
5. Are there single-use plastics that you use that you could find a reusable and sustainable alternative to? If so, what are those alternatives? Would it be easy or difficult to make the switch?



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6. Name a few businesses that may use a lot of single-use plastics and why they might use them. Are there reusable and sustainable alternatives? If so, what are they?

7. Write a strategy for how one of these businesses can become more environmentally friendly and reduce their single-use plastic.

8. Write a strategy for how YOU can become more environmentally friendly and reduce your single-use plastic. Put this into action and have your family and friends try too!

