

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Ms. Larsh



Mostly **non-biodegradable** plastics



Anywhere from the **surface** to **floating** 8 meters below the surface & on the **seafloor**



- 80% of the debris comes from land-based activities in North America & Asia
- 20% of the debris comes from boaters, offshore oil rigs, and large cargo ships that dump or lose debris directly into the water



Marine life mistake the debris for food or may get caught up in fishing line/ nets as they swim through it



Where?





Discuss with your table buddy

“Is there a way we can help prevent more trash from entering the ocean here in AZ at the local level, and around the U.S. at the federal level?”

Key Terms

- Oceanographers
- Ecologists
- Climatologists
- Trawl
- Photodegradation
- Microplastics
- Marine Food Webs
- Plankton
- Algae
- Autotrophs/Producers
- Apex Predators
- Leach vs Absorb
- NOAA
- Non-Biodegradable
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- Marine Debris
- Pacific Trash Vortex
- North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone
- North Pacific Subtropical Gyre
- Coriolis Effect
- California Current
- North Equatorial Current
- Kuroshio Current
- North Pacific Current
- Charles Moore (1997)