

## The Blue Planet 2 people say there was rarely a time when they didn't come across plastic in the sea.

This week's episode focuses on how plastic affects sea creatures. "There would rarely be a dive where I wouldn't find some form of plastic from a thread of plastic fishing line, sweet wrappers or plastic bottles," said assistant producer Sarah Conner. "When on the boat, if we noticed rubbish we would do our best to stop and pick it up, just as anyone who cares for the ocean would hopefully do."



Plastics entangle many creatures in the ocean, and in one episode, viewers see how a hawksbill turtle gets caught up in a plastic sack. On this occasion cameraman Rafa Herrero Massieu managed to release the turtle, and it swam away unharmed.



Another episode looks at how tiny plastic particles (micro plastics) may cause pollution. "They could be contributing to high levels of chemical contamination in large predators, such as pilot whales," says executive producer James Honeyborne. "It's thought that

plastics may increase the uptake of pollutants into the body. Micro plastics are now so pervasive in the ocean and are consumed by a vast number of sea creatures. They have even been found in samples from the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of our planet."

During filming, the Blue Planet team recorded all the plastic they found. James says, "It's often the remotest islands that have the most pollution by plastics. That's also because there are swirling currents, known as gyres, that concentrate plastics towards the centre of every ocean."

The crew sometimes had to intervene when they saw how plastic was affecting wildlife. "I have seen dead birds with their legs entangled in plastic bags, so they could have died from not being able to feed or fly," says Sarah Conner. "I saw a leatherback turtle that died from entanglement in fishing rope." It's also widely reported that ingestion of plastics has led to the deaths of many sea creatures, from turtles to albatrosses.

The team also saw plastic in the regurgitated pellets of albatross chicks on South Georgia. "Their parents must have picked up plastic backs at sea, thinking they were edible, and have fed them to their young," says James Honeyborne. "One chick had died from a plastic toothpick that had pierced its stomach."

Adapted and simplified from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/42030979/blue-planet-2-how-plastic-is-slowly-killing-our-sea-creatures-fish-and-birds> (19 Nov 2017)

## Reading Questions

1. What forms of plastic did Sarah Conner find on dives?

\_\_\_\_\_ (3 marks)

2. What type of creature was entangled by a plastic sack in the ocean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

3. What could be contributing to high levels of chemical contamination in large predators such as pilot whales?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

4. Look up the word pervasive in a dictionary. Write down what it means.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5. What is the deepest part of our planet?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6. What is the name for swirling currents in the ocean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

7. What have the crew seen dead birds entangled in?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

8. What animal died from being entangled in a fishing rope?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9. According to the text, which **one** of these statements is true?

(1 mark)

James Honeyborne is a camera man.	
Sarah Conner is the executive producer.	
The Blue Planet team kept a record of all the plastic they found.	

## Writing Activity - email

Your friend lives by the sea and often leaves rubbish on the beach. You don't want your friend to throw rubbish into the sea any more. Write your friend an email explaining why he or she should not throw rubbish into the sea.

In your email you could include:

- why it is important not to leave rubbish at the beach
- what happens to animals who become entangled in plastic
- why we need to protect the ocean
- why it is important to protect the animals in the ocean.

## Plan





## Entry Level 3 Functional Skills English mapping

Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards.

✓ indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource.

However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher.

**Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2.* <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

**Entry Level 3 Speaking, Listening and Communication skill standard:** Respond appropriately to others and make some extended contributions in familiar formal and informal discussions and exchanges

- a) Follow the main points of discussions
- b) Use techniques to clarify and confirm understanding
- c) Give own point of view and respond appropriately to others' point of view
- d) Use appropriate language in formal discussions/exchanges
- e) Make relevant contributions, allowing for and responding to others' input

**Entry Level 3 Writing skill standard:** Write texts with some adaptation to the intended audience

- a) Plan, draft and organise writing ✓
- b) Sequence writing logically and clearly ✓
- c) Use basic grammar including appropriate verb-tense and subject-verb agreement ✓
- d) Check work for accuracy, including spelling ✓

**Entry Level 3 Reading skill standard:** Read and understand the purpose and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information

- a) Understand the main points of texts ✓ (Q9)
- b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓ (Q1, 3, 5, 7, 8)
- c) Use organisational features to locate information ✓ (Q4)
- d) Read and understand texts in different formats using strategies and techniques appropriate to task ✓ (Q2, 6)

\* This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/content/etf1286> elements.

1. What forms of plastic did Sarah Conner find on dives?  
**Thread of plastic fishing line, sweet wrappers, plastic bottles.**
2. What type of creature was entangled by a plastic sack in the ocean?  
**Hawksbill turtle**
3. What could be contributing to high levels of chemical contamination in large predators such as pilot whales?  
**Tiny plastic particles (micro plastics)**
4. Provide the dictionary definition for pervasive  
**Spreading or spread throughout, widespread.**
5. What is the deepest part of our planet?  
**Mariana Trench**
6. What is the name for great swirling currents in the ocean?  
**Gyres**
7. What have the crew seen dead birds entangled in?  
**Plastic bags**
8. What animal died from being entangled in a fishing rope?  
**Leatherback turtle**
9. According to the text, which one of these statements is true?  
**The Blue Planet team kept a record of all the plastic they found.**