From Streams to Seas: Combating Litter for a Cleaner Environment

A Gold Award project

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Pre-Presentation Survey

My Gold Award

- Linking local littering → Marine pollution
- Working with the Watershed Institute & Montgomery Environmental Commission to educate and spread awareness
- Collecting trash at the annual Montgomery stream cleanup
- Using that trash to create a sculpture

What is Littering/Litter?

- What is your definition of littering?

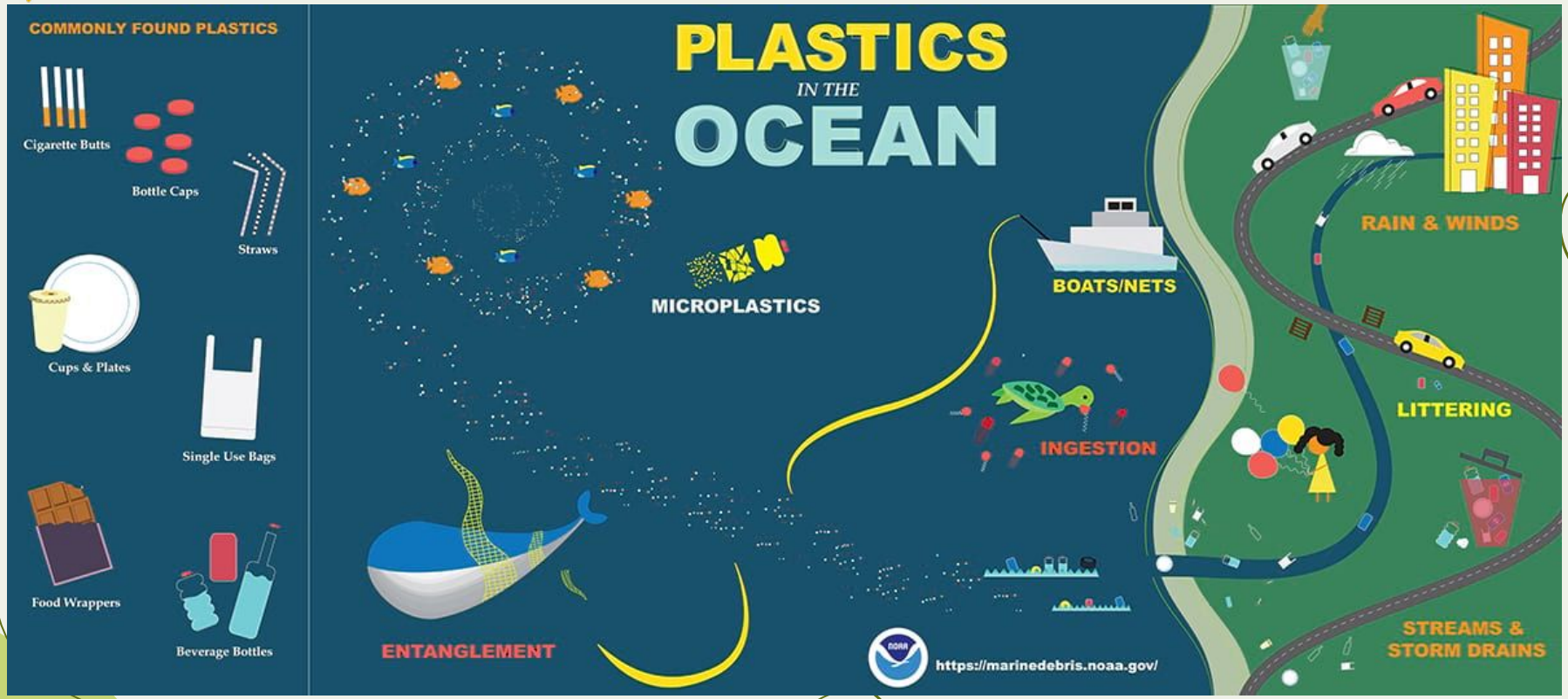
  What types of litter have you seen?

  Litter is defined as waste products that have not been discarded properly.

The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida

Sea turtles can’t digest these synthetic materials. They have little to no chance of survival once it’s in their bodies, without the help of organizations like The Turtle Hospital.

Link from Land Littering to Marine Pollution




3 WAYS
PLASTIC
GETS INTO
THE SEA

Marine Pollution: Impact on Animals

100% of turtles have eaten plastic in their lifetimes

98% of albatross are believed to have ingested plastic at some point in their lives

The leading cause of marine animal death, alongside fishing, is strangulation and starvation

Garbage Patches

- Large areas of the ocean where marine debris collects.
- Formed by rotating ocean currents called “gyres.”
- Five gyres, each one has multiple garbage patches of varying sizes
- Largest garbage patch, Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is 2x the size of Texas
- No one knows its exact size, as larger trash sinks to the bottom and microplastics float on top

Impact on Humans

We ingest microplastics through seafood

Microplastics

Where microplastics can be found:

-In our bodies
-Dust
-Seafood
-Sea ice in Antarctica
-The bottom of the Mariana Trench, the deepest body of water in the world
-The peak of Mt. Everest
-In the air

Effects of Microplastics on Humans and Animals

- Can disrupt reproductive systems, stunt growth, diminish appetite, and cause tissue inflammation and liver damage in marine animals

- Can release hazardous chemicals into the bodies that consume it, and the bodies of water

- Reduces the ability to digest fats in humans

Ways You can Help

- Reduce Your Use of Single-Use Plastics
  -Refuse any single-use plastics that you do not need, like straws, plastic bags, plastic utensils
  -Don’t buy plastic waterbottles unless you really need to, keep a reusable waterbottle with you everywhere

- Recycle properly
  -Make sure your house has proper recycling, and check on your single-use plastic items to see if you can recycle them
  -If someplace doesn’t have a recycling bin, take your plastic home to recycle it

- DON’T LITTER!

Video

https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ee18-sci-waterpol/kids-go-green-litter-and-our-oceans/

Post Presentation Survey