# Washed **Ashore**



**Mini Fact:** 

In 2015, experts say, we recycled only 14 percent of the plastics we used.

One day six years ago, an artist and teacher walked along the beach in Bandon, Oregon. What she saw along the beautiful coast near her home upset her — a lot of garbage, most of it plastic.

So Angela Haseltine Pozzi, who had always been a recycler, decided to turn her passion for art into a purpose: cleaning up the ocean.



Angela Haseltine Pozzi

She started Washed Ashore, an organization that uses ocean trash to make colorful sculptures with a message about polluting. The artworks form a traveling exhibit that has just opened at the Denver Zoo.

## Our trash problem

Experts say between 5 million and 14 million tons of plastic debris (deh-BREE), or trash, ends up in the sea every year, mostly from countries that border oceans.

Some of that trash ends up in a gyre (JIer), a slow-spinning vortex of ocean currents.

Gyres are caused by winds and the Earth's rotation. In the world's oceans, five big gyres churn the garbage into a sort of plastic soup that includes not only whole plastic products, but also microplastics, or tiny bits.



**Microplastics** 

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Ocean animals may mistake pieces of plastic or plastic bags for food. Once they've swallowed

the plastic, it can stay in their bodies instead of

passing through, as food does. Whales and sea lions may feel full from the plastic but actually be starving because they're not eating actual food.

### Animals in trouble

Washed Ashore's sculptures are of sea animals that are affected by ocean pollution. For example, puffins, sea turtles, seals, octopus and fish are all challenged by the garbage in oceans.

How does it

work?



Sebastian James the Puffin helps spread Washed Ashore's message.

Groups and individuals collect trash along beaches in the Pacific Northwest, then donate it to Washed Ashore. Angela estimates that 18 tons of garbage have been picked up along 300 miles of coastline. Washed Ashore has so far made 68 sculptures from the trash.

Once materials arrive at Washed Ashore, the garbage is washed and sorted by color, type and size. Then those objects become art supplies.



A volunteer sorts

Next, a professional plastic by color. artist designs a sculpture, then works with volunteers, students and others to build it.

## How can you help?

Did you use a disposable plastic water bottle today? Think about that one bottle. It can take a plastic water bottle hundreds of years to decompose. Your great-great-great-great-greatgreat-great-great-great-great-great grandchild could be kicking around the same water bottle you chucked into the street today!

"We are trying to change consumer habits, with art as the messenger," Angela said. "The Washed Ashore sculptures make the point better than just talking about recycling."

When you visit the beach, bring along a bucket or trash bag and pick up trash that's



washed ashore. Make sure your own trash gets picked up, too.

Even in cities, see that your trash gets into recycling or garbage bins. Don't let it fall down storm sewers or into streams and rivers that empty into the ocean.

Use reusable containers, such as stainless steel water bottles. Tap water in the United States is usually safe and tastes great!

## Resources



## On the Web:

- youtu.be/E4V\_RZ-p9-Y
- go.nasa.gov/2bRZHpe
- washedashore.org

### At the library:

• "Plastic, Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch" by Patricia Newman

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of ocean garbage are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



Cook's Corner

You'll need:

What to do:

brown sugar.

• 3/4 cup flaked coconut

• 1 1/2 cups crispy rice cereal

• 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

**Crispy Ice Cream Surprise** 

• 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened

4. Cut into squares to serve. Serves 12.

SEALVGSIRBEDCEE QLTROSGEGABRAG OCIGYREHCAEBXG EYERUTPLUC SDQQH RRZNIFFUPO REGON URJANIMALSBYNTN TTRASHRCOL SUPOTCOWTIBIHXE

• 1/3 cup brown sugar

fat ice cream, any

flavor

1. Mix coconut, rice cereal and walnuts in a shallow baking pan. Toast at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, remove ice cream from container and soften for 15 minutes.

3. Spread half of mixture in a medium-size baking dish. Slice softened ice cream and

layer on top of mixture. Top with remaining half of mixture and freeze overnight.

2. Pour cereal mixture into a medium-sized bowl and stir in butter or margarine and

• 1 1/2 quarts reduced-

Penny: A puffin!

**Mini Jokes** 

Perry: What bird is always

out of breath?

We use millions of gallons of oil and create plenty of pollution just making bottles for bottled water. Then we use energy trucking them to stores, and we throw most of them away. Instead of one-use bottles, carry a reusable water bottle made of stainless steel. When you do use plastic bottles, try to recycle them.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com

# Thank You



## Frank Rocco with Washed Ashore for help with this issue.

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\_guides.html

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## **Teachers:**

from a list of clues.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter



an

combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.	,
1. pasta served with cheese (8)	PEN
2. artist with a brush (7)	1 211
3. serpent (5)	EDO
4. writing tool you sharpen (6)	

SNA **SEA** INT SON KE ONI TUX CIL **TAH** 5. winter or summer (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 6. speedy spotted cat (7)\_ MA PA CAR **ER** 7. fancy clothes for a man (6) \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: macaroni, painter, snake, pencil, season, cheetah, tuxedo.

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