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# Plastic, Ahoy!: Investigating The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (Nonfiction - Grades 4-8)



## Synopsis

Plastic: it's used to make everything from drink bottles and bags to toys and toothbrushes. But what happens when it ends up where it doesn't belong—like in the Pacific Ocean? How does it affect ocean life? Is it dangerous? And exactly how much is out there? A team of researchers went on a scientific expedition to find out. They explored the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, where millions of pieces of plastic have collected. The plastic has drifted there from rivers, beaches, and ocean traffic all over the world. Most of it has broken down into tiny pieces the size of confetti. For nearly three weeks at sea, researchers gathered bits of plastic and ocean organisms. These samples helped them learn more about the effects of plastic in the ocean. Follow along on the expedition to find out how scientists studied the Garbage Patch—and what alarming discoveries they made.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gyres, salps, and diatoms! These are just three of the fascinating things you will learn about from this book. Scientists Miriam, Chelsea and Darcy are trying to figure out how plastic affects the ocean,

so they take a trip on the New Horizon. They do all kinds of interesting experiments to measure the impact of plastic trash in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This book has a lighthearted tone, but it will make you feel contemplative and maybe even sad to see so many amazing creatures and places being affected by garbage. It will make you question how much plastic you have put into the ocean. The book is full of big, colorful photos that are striking, fascinating and foreboding. We recommend this book for ages 8 to 15, but it would be informative for any age. Anyone interested in marine biology, chemistry, geology or ecology would like this book.

Great book for children to teach them about trash issues!

If you care about the environment, if you want to learn more about what we are doing to destroy it, and if you want to know how to stop destructive practices now, this beautifully written and illustrated book is a must-read. Recommended for all ages.

The photos are very compelling and the story of this real life journey into the Pacific, and subsequent look at our pollution problems, is a must for school children (grades 3 to 7).

Packed with information!

Vital, vital topic ! But worth \$30 ? No way. Thin book. Will be finished in a week by a 7 year old. Choose another book.

Perhaps you have heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, where plastics that have been dumped off of boats, washed down rivers, or tossed on the beach have gathered in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. In *Plastic, Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch*, author Patricia Newman and photographer Annie Crawley ride along on a scientific expedition whose purpose is to examine the garbage patch and evaluate its effect on sea life. One thing that may surprise you about what they found is what the garbage patch is not. If you picture it as a gigantic bundle of bottles and other recognizable plastic refuse floating like an island in the Pacific, you're wrong. (So, contrary to the story line of a recent graphic novel, no one will be able to establish a colony on the garbage patch.) There are, of course, bottles to be found, but for the most part the plastic has been broken down into tiny bits and pieces, suspended a few inches below the surface. Newman and Crawley describe and illustrate the tasks of several members of the expedition while discussing the patch

and its potential importance. The presentation is quite balance, avoiding the hyperbolic scare tactics one might expect from a children's book about an environmental mess. But they do make very clear that this patch has the potential to do some serious damage to the ecosystem, even at a distance of thousands of miles from land. Plastic, Ahoy! doesn't shy away from introducing complex language and ideas, and includes a glossary, bibliography, and suggestions for further reading. It would be appropriate for older elementary school readers and older. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

It was fun to get a bird's-eye view of an ocean expedition to investigate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. When I was a kid growing up in Florida, I wanted to be a marine biologist--at least for awhile. This book let me ride along and see how a group of scientists explore the North Pacific Central Gyre, where ocean currents deliver and trap tons of plastic litter. How does the plastic affect marine life? How does it affect life on Earth? Those are the questions researchers had in mind on this three-week voyage. We see how they catch the plastic and sea life, what obstacles they face, what kinds of experiments they do back home, etc. And we learn that there are no fast or easy answers to big questions like these. Instead, as with much science today, it is the accretion of data, of ideas, of experiments, of measurements and counts, that will hopefully lead to big-picture solutions in the future. A great resource for looking at the scientific method, especially, and one that will make kids (and grown-ups) think twice about all the plastic trash they're creating. Put this on your shelf next to Loree Griffin Burns' TRACKING TRASH and get kids interested in science, environmentalism, and discovery.

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