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Hawaii hit by Great Plastic Garbage Patch

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

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26th April, 2010

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

A recent discovery shows the world now has two ocean garbage patches. These are huge areas of the ocean which have a huge floating island of trash and litter. The first garbage patch was discovered in the Pacific by ocean researcher Charles Moore in 1997. The new one was found in the Atlantic by a husband and wife team Anna Cummins and Marcus Eriksen. "We found the Great Atlantic Garbage Patch," said Ms Cummins. "Our job now is to let people know that plastic ocean pollution is a global problem. Unfortunately, it is not confined to a single patch," she added. Ms Cummins described her sadness at what humans are doing to the ocean: "It's shocking to see it firsthand....We've managed to leave our footprint really everywhere."

The BBC has just reported on the damage the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is doing. Tons of plastic is washing up on the beaches of Hawaii. This island chain is world famous for having some of the world's most beautiful beaches. The very name 'Hawaii' conjures up images of paradise islands. No longer. The BBC's presenter Simon Reeve says Kamilo Beach on the island of Hawaii has been described as "the world's dirtiest beach". He went on a tour of the remote beach with a local conservationist. They analysed what was on the beach and found more plastic particles than grains of sand. A Wikipedia search confirms the beach's new status. The website says, "it is known for its accumulation of plastic marine debris from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

WARM-UPS

1. HAWAII: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Hawaii. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

recent discovery / garbage patches / islands / plastic / pollution / shocking / footprint / beaches / paradise / tours / conservationists / sand / Wikipedia / Pacific Ocean

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. POLLUTION: What can we do about it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Type	Size of problem?	What to do?
plastic		
noise		
CO2		
industrial waste		
household waste		
nuclear waste		

4. POLLUTION: Students A **strongly** believe that in the future pollution will be a thing of the past; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. MY WASTE: Are you a polluter? Tell your partner what you do with these. Change partners and share what you heard.

- paper
- plastic bottles
- glass bottles
- batteries
- drinks cans
- old computers / TVs / fridges...
- old clothes
- sweet/candy wrappers

6. PARADISE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'paradise'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Scientists have discovered Hawaiians use plastic in their gardens. | T / F |
| b. The garbage patches do not move and look to be permanent. | T / F |
| c. The world's first ocean garbage patch was found in the Indian Ocean. | T / F |
| d. A garbage patch discoverer encouraged people to leave footprints. | T / F |
| e. People are washing tons of plastic bottles on Hawaii's beaches. | T / F |
| f. The article says the word 'Hawaii' makes you think of paradise. | T / F |
| g. An analysis of a Hawaiian beach found more plastic than sand. | T / F |
| h. Wikipedia says Kamilo Beach is best known for marine life. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. discovery | a. rubbish |
| 2. huge | b. proves |
| 3. trash | c. harm |
| 4. single | d. creates |
| 5. firsthand | e. enormous |
| 6. damage | f. sea |
| 7. conjures up | g. unearthing |
| 8. remote | h. in person |
| 9. confirms | i. isolated |
| 10. marine | j. sole |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the world now has two | a. to a single patch |
| 2. a huge floating island of trash | b. up on the beaches |
| 3. plastic ocean pollution is | c. and litter |
| 4. it is not confined | d. firsthand |
| 5. It's shocking to see it | e. images of paradise |
| 6. tons of plastic is washing | f. a global problem |
| 7. 'Hawaii' conjures up | g. plastic marine debris |
| 8. He went on a tour | h. ocean garbage patches |
| 9. more plastic particles than | i. of the remote beach |
| 10. known for its accumulation of | j. grains of sand |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A _____ discovery shows the world now has two ocean garbage patches. These are _____ areas of the ocean which have a huge floating island of trash and _____. The first garbage patch was discovered in the Pacific by ocean _____ Charles Moore in 1997. The new one was found in the Atlantic by a husband and wife _____ Anna Cummins and Marcus Eriksen. "We found the Great Atlantic Garbage Patch," said Ms Cummins. "Our job now is to let people know that plastic ocean pollution is a global problem. Unfortunately, it is not _____ to a single patch," she added. Ms Cummins described her sadness at what humans are doing to the ocean: "It's shocking to see it _____We've managed to leave our _____ really everywhere."

confined
firsthand
researcher
huge
recent
team
footprint
litter

The BBC has just _____ on the damage the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is doing. Tons of plastic is _____ up on the beaches of Hawaii. This island _____ is world famous for having some of the world's most beautiful beaches. The very name 'Hawaii' conjures up images of paradise islands. No _____. The BBC's presenter Simon Reeve says Kamilo Beach on the island of Hawaii has been described as "the world's dirtiest beach". He went on a tour of the _____ beach with a local conservationist. They analysed what was on the beach and found more plastic _____ than grains of sand. A Wikipedia search confirms the beach's new _____. The website says, "it is known for its accumulation of plastic marine _____ from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

longer
chain
reported
status
washing
particles
debris
remote

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

A _____ the world now has two ocean garbage patches. These are huge areas of the ocean which have a huge floating island _____. The first garbage patch was discovered in the Pacific by ocean researcher Charles Moore in 1997. _____ in the Atlantic by a husband and wife team Anna Cummins and Marcus Eriksen. "We found the Great Atlantic Garbage Patch," said Ms Cummins. "_____ people know that plastic ocean pollution is a global problem. Unfortunately, _____ a single patch," she added. Ms Cummins described her sadness at what humans are doing to the ocean: "It's shocking to see it firsthand...We've _____ footprint really everywhere."

The BBC has _____ damage the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is doing. Tons of plastic is washing up on the beaches of Hawaii. This island _____ for having some of the world's most beautiful beaches. The very name 'Hawaii' _____ paradise islands. No longer. The BBC's presenter Simon Reeve says Kamilo Beach on the island of Hawaii _____ "the world's dirtiest beach". He went on a tour of the remote beach with a local conservationist. They analysed what was on the beach and found more plastic particles _____. A Wikipedia search confirms the beach's new status. The website says, "it is known for its accumulation _____ from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'garbage' and 'patch'.

garbage	patch

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• recent• huge• researcher• team• now• shocking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• damage• chain• images• dirtiest• confirms• marine
--	--

STUDENT OCEAN SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

Write five GOOD questions about oceans in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

OCEAN GARBAGE PATCHES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'ocean'?
- c) What do you think of the plastic garbage patches?
- d) What do you think should be done about them?
- e) What damage do they do?
- f) How big a problem is pollution?
- g) How do you feel when you see garbage, litter and trash everywhere?
- h) What's the most shocking example of pollution you've seen firsthand?
- i) What footprint do you leave on the environment?
- j) What three adjectives would you use to describe the garbage patches.?

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OCEAN GARBAGE PATCHES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What kind of pollution is there in your area?
- c) What images does the word 'Hawaii' conjure up?
- d) What's your favourite beach and why?
- e) How do you feel when you see a dirty beach?
- f) Do you say something to people who litter beaches?
- g) Do you think pollution will eventually kill the oceans?
- h) How can we educate people better about pollution?
- i) What penalties should people who litter get?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the ocean researchers?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100426-plastic_garbage_patch.html

A (1) ____ discovery shows the world now has two ocean garbage patches. These are huge areas of the ocean which have a huge floating island of trash and (2) _____. The first garbage patch was discovered in the Pacific by ocean researcher Charles Moore in 1997. The new one was found in the Atlantic by a husband and wife (3) ____ Anna Cummins and Marcus Eriksen. "We found the Great Atlantic Garbage Patch," said Ms Cummins. "Our job now is to let people know that plastic ocean pollution is a global problem. Unfortunately, it is not (4) ____ to a single patch," she added. Ms Cummins described her (5) ____ at what humans are doing to the ocean: "It's shocking to see it firsthand...We've managed to leave our (6) ____ really everywhere."

The BBC has just reported on the damage the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is doing. Tons of plastic is washing (7) ____ on the beaches of Hawaii. This island (8) ____ is world famous for having some of the world's most beautiful beaches. The very name 'Hawaii' conjures (9) ____ images of paradise islands. No longer. The BBC's presenter Simon Reeve says Kamilo Beach on the island of Hawaii has been described as "the world's dirtiest beach". He went on a tour of the (10) ____ beach with a local conservationist. They analysed what was on the beach and found more plastic particles than (11) ____ of sand. A Wikipedia search confirms the beach's new status. The website says, "it is known (12) ____ its accumulation of plastic marine debris from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) recently | (b) resent | (c) recentness | (d) recent |
| 2. | (a) litter | (b) litters | (c) littering | (d) littered |
| 3. | (a) trio | (b) team | (c) teamwork | (d) duet |
| 4. | (a) confirmed | (b) refined | (c) confined | (d) inflamed |
| 5. | (a) sad | (b) sadly | (c) sadness | (d) saddest |
| 6. | (a) hoof print | (b) footprint | (c) claw print | (d) fingerprint |
| 7. | (a) down | (b) in | (c) over | (d) up |
| 8. | (a) chain | (b) chair | (c) charm | (d) chase |
| 9. | (a) along | (b) up | (c) down | (d) over |
| 10. | (a) promote | (b) demote | (c) moat | (d) remote |
| 11. | (a) granules | (b) groups | (c) grains | (d) grids |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) from | (d) at |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about ocean garbage patches. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. OCEAN GARBAGE PATCHES: Make a poster about the ocean garbage patches. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. POLLUTION: Write a magazine article about marine pollution. Include imaginary interviews with the marine animals it affects.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a conservationist. Ask him/her three questions about the ocean garbage patches. Give him/her three opinions on how to reduce it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. F d. F e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. discovery | a. unearthing |
| 2. huge | b. enormous |
| 3. trash | c. rubbish |
| 4. single | d. sole |
| 5. firsthand | e. in person |
| 6. damage | f. harm |
| 7. conjures up | g. creates |
| 8. remote | h. isolated |
| 9. confirms | i. proves |
| 10. marine | j. sea |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the world now has two | a. ocean garbage patches |
| 2. a huge floating island of trash | b. and litter |
| 3. plastic ocean pollution is | c. a global problem |
| 4. it is not confined | d. to a single patch |
| 5. It's shocking to see it | e. firsthand |
| 6. tons of plastic is washing | f. up on the beaches |
| 7. 'Hawaii' conjures up | g. images of paradise |
| 8. He went on a tour | h. of the remote beach |
| 9. more plastic particles than | i. grains of sand |
| 10. known for its accumulation of | j. plastic marine debris |

GAP FILL:

Hawaii hit by Great Plastic Garbage Patch

A **recent** discovery shows the world now has two ocean garbage patches. These are **huge** areas of the ocean which have a huge floating island of trash and **litter**. The first garbage patch was discovered in the Pacific by ocean **researcher** Charles Moore in 1997. The new one was found in the Atlantic by a husband and wife **team** Anna Cummins and Marcus Eriksen. "We found the Great Atlantic Garbage Patch," said Ms Cummins. "Our job now is to let people know that plastic ocean pollution is a global problem. Unfortunately, it is not **confined** to a single patch," she added. Ms Cummins described her sadness at what humans are doing to the ocean: "It's shocking to see it **firsthand**....We've managed to leave our **footprint** really everywhere."

The BBC has just **reported** on the damage the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is doing. Tons of plastic is **washing** up on the beaches of Hawaii. This island **chain** is world famous for having some of the world's most beautiful beaches. The very name 'Hawaii' conjures up images of paradise islands. No **longer**. The BBC's presenter Simon Reeve says Kamilo Beach on the island of Hawaii has been described as "the world's dirtiest beach". He went on a tour of the **remote** beach with a local conservationist. They analysed what was on the beach and found more plastic **particles** than grains of sand. A Wikipedia search confirms the beach's new **status**. The website says, "it is known for its accumulation of plastic marine **debris** from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch".

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a