

Lesson 2

Consciousness-raising Tasks

A. Read the text and decide if the statements below are True or False.

Plastic debris in the Arctic comes from all around the world

February 7, 2023

In the course of five years, citizens who went on sailing cruises to the Arctic surveyed and collected plastic debris that had washed up on the shores of Svalbard. This has now been analyzed. According to the findings, one third of the plastic debris which still bore imprints or labels allowing an analysis of their origin came from Europe, and much of that number from Germany.

Plastic debris is a global problem that even the uninhabited wilderness of the High North is not immune to: considerable amounts of plastic debris have been observed floating in the remote Arctic Ocean. However, it is still unclear where it all comes from.

"From previous studies and computer models, we know that plastic pollution comes from local and remote sources alike," says researcher Melanie Bergmann from Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI). "Locally, plastic debris finds its way to the ocean from ships and from Arctic communities with poor waste management systems. As for remote sources, plastic debris and microplastic are transported to the Arctic Ocean from the Atlantic, North Sea and North Pacific by various rivers and ocean currents." The findings have been released in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

In order to tackle the problem effectively, not only does local waste management - especially on ships and in fisheries - need to be improved. It's equally important that global plastic production be massively reduced, especially in the industrialised countries of Europe, North America and Asia. This underscores once again the urgent need for an ambitious and legally binding UN Plastics Treaty, which is currently being negotiated and due to enter into force in 2024.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/02/230207081407.htm>

1. Melanie Bergmann is a scientist.
2. She studied the effect of plastic pollution globally.
3. Arctic communities with poor waste management systems are the sole responsible for plastic pollution.
4. *Frontiers in Marine Science* has published the results from the research.
5. Industrialised countries of Europe, North America and Asia are expected to comply UN Plastics Treaty next year.

B. Now, correct the false statements so they are true.

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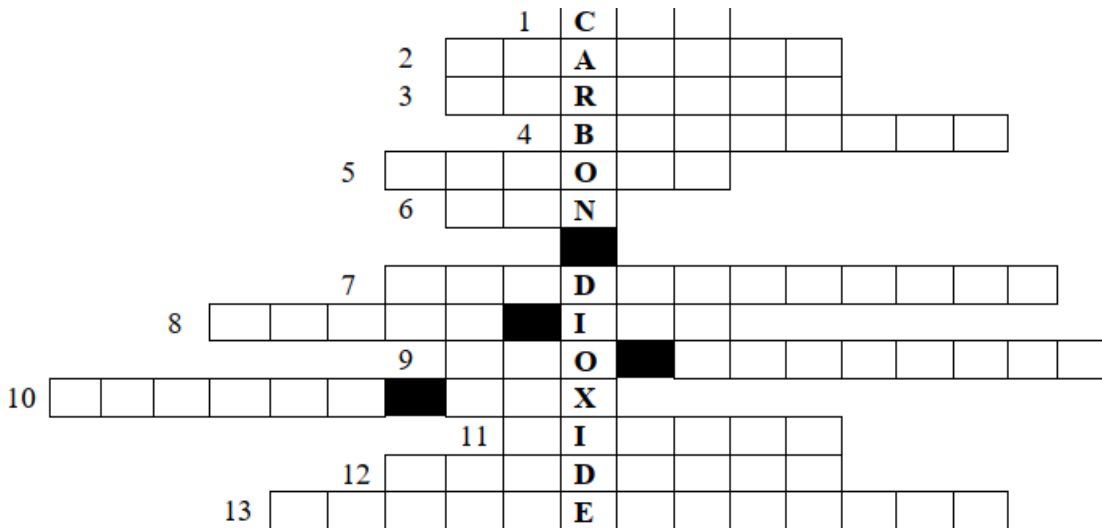
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C. Match the words with their definition. There is one extra word. Provide its definition.

1. Debris	a) The strategy to dispose, reduce, reuse, and prevent waste
2. Journal	b) To deal with a difficult situation
3. Wilderness	c) Broken or torn pieces of something larger
4. Waste management system	d)
5. Tackle	e) Unused land as a result of extremely weather or bad earth

D. Try this puzzle about global warming. How much do you know about it?



Across

- Don't use this if you can possibly walk.
- You can use less in winter if you wear more clothes.
- The Earth is undergoing this.
- We need them to reduce fossil fuel use.
- Heavier rainstorms will cause more of these.
- Without this star, there would be no life on Earth.
- If we take care of the Earth, we will protect this.



- This is melting faster than before.



- Less harmful to the environment than a common alternative



- Money paid on the use of fossil fuels.



- Sea level is doing this.



- A place to dispose of garbage.



- If you remove trees indiscriminately you get this.



E. Reading: The three Rs of the environment

People everywhere in the world produce a lot of rubbish but there is not enough space, and landfills are filling up quickly. If we want to save our planet, then 3 Rs are essential. The 3 Rs are reduce, reuse, and recycle. Here are a number of tips on what you can do to save the environment.

Reduce

A good place to start is by buying things that don't have a lot of packaging. There are items you may not use very often, so you might borrow them from someone. Nowadays, newspapers can be read online so buying the paper edition is not necessary. The same goes for emails it is usually not necessary to print them out. Generally, the use of electricity can be greatly reduced by, for example, turning off lights that are not used.

Reuse

When you go shopping, refuse plastic bags and bring a bag with you instead. If you're not buying a lot, a bag is not necessary to begin with. Reusable bags should be heavier and more durable. If you prepare your lunch at home, put it in a plastic lunch box. I always keep shoe boxes as they are great to store stuff. Many cities have collection points for used clothes. If you have clothes that are still in good shape, you can bring them to the collection points rather than throwing them away.

Recycle

Recycling is a process that makes it possible to create new products out of old ones.

Paper, aluminium, glass and plastic can often be recycled.

Glass is relatively easy to recycle. Aluminium can be repeatedly recycled quickly and easily.

Paper is recyclable but it cannot be recycled forever.

The small fibres in paper eventually become very weak so that they can't be recycled into good paper anymore. Also, not every type of paper is recyclable as some high-quality paper is too expensive to recycle.

A. Read the text quickly. What are the three Rs of the environment?

B. Read the text again. Are the statements True, False or Not Given?

1. The author suggests borrowing certain items rather than buying them.
2. According to the author, shoe boxes can be very useful to store things.
3. Used clothes can be donated.
4. It's not possible to recycle aluminium over and over again.
5. Empty plastic bottles are relatively easy to recycle.