Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Marine Biology Article Assignment #4 – Plastics (5 pts)**

Answer the following questions after reading the National Geographic article: *We made it. We depend on it. We’re drowning in it. Plastic.* By Laura Parker

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-waste-pollution-trash-crisis/>

1. How many tons of plastic have become waste, and of that, how much never made it to the recycling bin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are microplastics? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. How much plastic was produced in 1950? How much was produced in 2015? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. In the figure showing A Lifetime of Plastic, which industry has shown the greatest increase in plastic production since 1950? What is the average time plastic packaging is used before it is discarder? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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5. Besides waves and sunlight, what did Dr. Richard Thompson and his students discover could breakdown plastics?

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6. What percentage of fish did Dr. Richard Thompson discover had plastics in their gut? What is Dr. Thompson worried might pass from fish that consume plastic to humans that eat the fish? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. What percentage of the 448 million tons of plastic produced every year is disposable? How many plastic bottles does the Coca-Cola Company produce every year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. What countries are currently responsible for generating half of the world’s plastic waste? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9. According to the graphic on The Challenge of Recycling, what plastic products are considered very difficult to recycle? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. What are the two ways that the industry can help reduce the amount of plastic waste? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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11. What is The United Nations Clean Seas agreement? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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