

Please use the following resources to learn about the problem of plastic in our oceans.

Watch this Video: <https://www.pbs.org/video/how-much-plastic-is-in-the-ocean-jpfpsf/>

Answer these questions:

- What size is most of the plastic found in the ocean?
- Where do plastic particles tend to collect in the ocean? Why do they gather there?
- Where (how deep) in the ocean can we find plastic bits?
- Who is hurt when the ocean fills up with plastic? How?

Activity: Follow these directions to understand how gyres of plastic trash form in the ocean and why getting rid of them is a big engineering challenge.

You will need:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bathtub (or large bowl) ● Slotted Spoon ● Plastic bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scissors ● Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strainer (optional) ● Food coloring (optional)
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1. Cut the plastic bag into tiny pieces. As small as you can make them.
2. Fill the bathtub (or large bowl) with water. You need about 4 inches
3. Add a little food coloring to the water to make the plastic bits easier to see.
4. Put all the plastic pieces you cut up into the water and observe what happens to them.
 - a. Where do they end up? Floating? Sinking? Both?
5. Put your hand in the water and make a circular motion gently around the edge of the bowl 10 times and observe where the plastic is now.
6. Use the slotted spoon to try to separate the plastic from the water.
7. Use the strainer to try to separate the plastic from the water.
8. Make sure to put all the little pieces of plastic in your recycling bin.



Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

1. **Claim:** A circulating current gets filled with plastic bits.
 - **Evidence:**
 - **Reasoning:**
2. **Claim:** A net/strainer couldn't collect all of the plastic in the water.
 - **Evidence:**
 - **Reasoning:**