

MICROPLASTICS AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE READING

Improve students' literacy skills

Sub Plan

Science Applicability



Reading Comment



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - Great resource to work on student reading comprehension and it tied into the topic I was teaching. My students have been struggling with reading and I've been incorporating more reading into my lessons. Thank you for the resource.



SCROLL
to take a look inside!

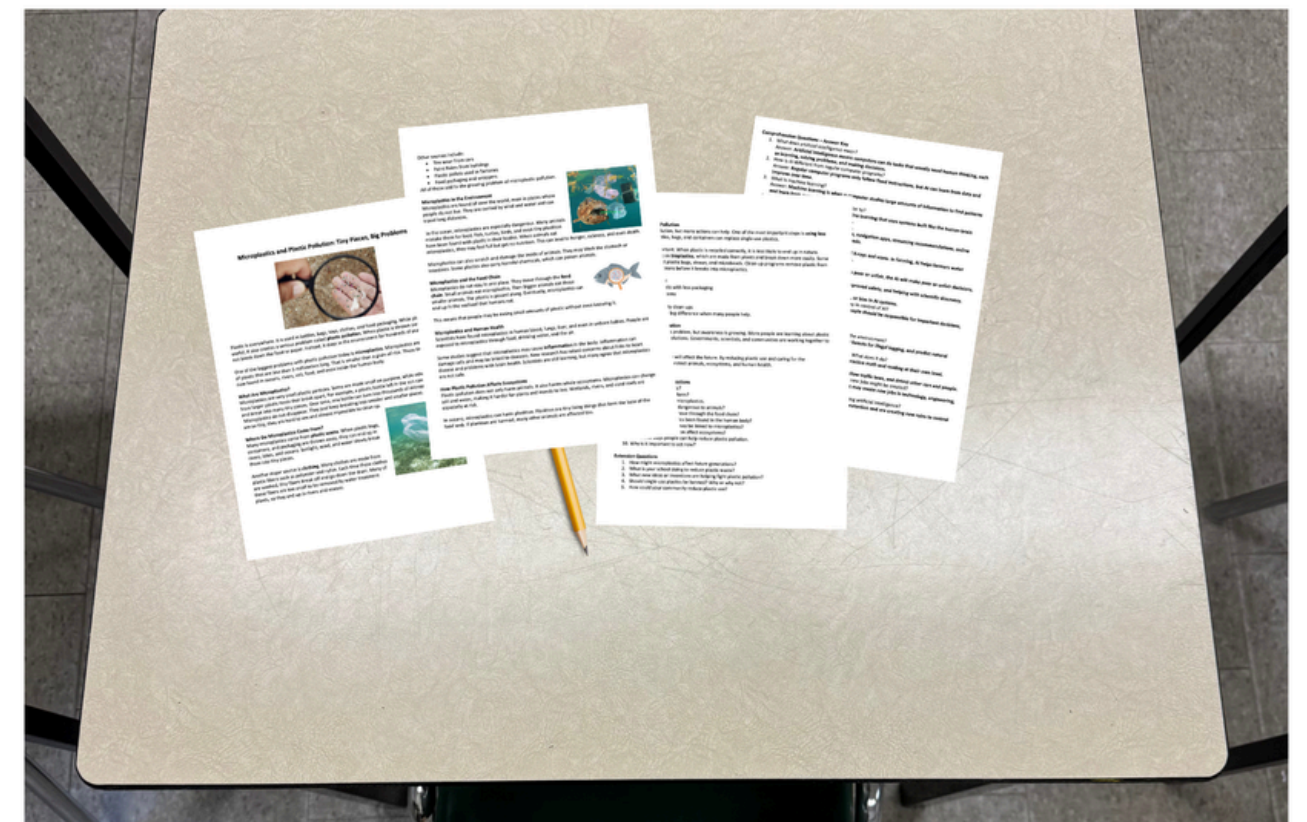


THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE

- Limited time to teach scientific literacy and strengthen students' reading and analysis skills.
- Need meaningful extension activities to engage fast-moving learners.
- Difficulty creating effective last-minute sub plans that still support student learning.

NO-PREP - PRINT/UPLOAD

- Questions and Answer Key
- **No Prep, Ready-to-Use:** Print or assign digitally with Google Docs, Microsoft Word, and PDF formats for flexible classroom use
- **Includes Varied Question Types:** Knowledge, thinking, connecting, application, and open-ended questions.



What Will Your Students Learn?

READING COMPREHENSION ARTICLE & QUESTIONS

- What Are Microplastics?
- How Microplastics Form
- Sources of Microplastics (Clothing, Packaging, Waste, Tires)
- Microplastics in Oceans and Wildlife
- Microplastics and the Food Chain
- Microplastics and Human Health
- Plastic Pollution and Ecosystems
- Solutions to Plastic Pollution
- The Future of Plastic Pollution

Comprehension Questions

1. What is CRISPR and why is it called "genetic scissors"?
2. Where was CRISPR first discovered?
3. What are the two main parts of the CRISPR system?
4. How do you use CRISPR to edit DNA?
5. What are some potential applications of CRISPR?
6. Name one ethical concern about CRISPR.
7. What is the goal of the CRISPR project?
8. List one benefit of CRISPR.
9. What is the main purpose of the article?
10. Why is CRISPR important?

Extension Questions

1. What are some other ways to edit DNA?
2. How do you think CRISPR will change the world?
3. What are some other ethical concerns about CRISPR?
4. How do you think CRISPR will change the world?
5. Do you think CRISPR is a good idea?

Article with
Comprehension
Questions

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Print & Digital

Microplastics and Plastic Pollution: Tiny Pieces, Big Problems



Plastic is everywhere. It is used in bottles, bags, toys, clothes, and food packaging. While plastic is useful, it also creates a serious problem called **plastic pollution**. When plastic is thrown away, it does not break down like food or paper. Instead, it stays in the environment for hundreds of years.

One of the biggest problems with plastic pollution today is **microplastics**. Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are less than 5 millimeters long. That is smaller than a grain of rice. These tiny pieces are now found in oceans, rivers, soil, food, and even inside the human body.

What Are Microplastics?

Microplastics are very small plastic particles. Some are made small on purpose, while others come from larger plastic items that break apart. For example, a plastic bottle left in the sun can slowly crack and break into many tiny pieces. Over time, one bottle can turn into thousands of microplastics. Microplastics do not disappear. They just keep breaking into smaller and smaller pieces. Because they are so tiny, they are hard to see and almost impossible to clean up.

Where Do Microplastics Come From?

Many microplastics come from **plastic waste**. When plastic bags, containers, and packaging are thrown away, they can end up in rivers, lakes, and oceans. Sunlight, wind, and water slowly break them into tiny pieces.

Another major source is **clothing**. Many clothes are made from plastic fibers such as polyester and nylon. Each time these clothes are washed, tiny fibers break off and go down the drain. Many of these fibers are too small to be removed by water treatment plants, so they end up in rivers and oceans.



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PDF



Your Reading

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Other sources include:

- Tire wear from cars
- Paint flakes from buildings
- Plastic pellets used in factories
- Food packaging and wrappers

All of these add to the growing problem of microplastic pollution.

Microplastics in the Environment

Microplastics are found all over the world, even in places where people do not live. They are carried by wind and water and can travel long distances.



In the ocean, microplastics are especially dangerous. Many animals mistake them for food. Fish, turtles, birds, and even tiny plankton have been found with plastic in their bodies. When animals eat microplastics, they may feel full but get no nutrition. This can lead to hunger, sickness, an

Microplastics can also scratch and damage the inside of animals. They may block the storr intestines. Some plastics also carry harmful chemicals, which can poison animals.

Microplastics and the Food Chain

Microplastics do not stay in one place. They move through the **food chain**. Small animals eat microplastics. Then bigger animals eat those smaller animals. The plastic is passed along. Eventually, microplastics can end up in the seafood that humans eat.



This means that people may be eating small amounts of plastic without even knowing it.

Microplastics and Human Health

Scientists have found microplastics in human blood, lungs, liver, and even in unborn babies exposed to microplastics through food, drinking water, and the air.

Some studies suggest that microplastics may cause **inflammation** in the body. Inflammation damage cells and may be linked to diseases. New research has raised concerns about link: disease and problems with brain health. Scientists are still learning, but many agree that r are not safe.

How Plastic Pollution Affects Ecosystems

Plastic pollution does not only harm animals. It also harms whole ecosystems. Microplasti soil and water, making it harder for plants and insects to live. Wetlands, rivers, and coral r especially at risk.

In oceans, microplastics can harm plankton. Plankton are tiny living things that form the b food web. If plankton are harmed, many other animals are affected too.

Solutions to Plastic Pollution

There is no single solution, but many actions can help. One of the most important steps is **using less plastic**. Reusable bottles, bags, and containers can replace single-use plastics.

Recycling is also important. When plastic is recycled correctly, it is less likely to end up in nature. Scientists are working on **bioplastics**, which are made from plants and break down more easily. Some countries have banned plastic bags, straws, and microbeads. Clean-up programs remove plastic from beaches, rivers, and oceans before it breaks into microplastics.

People can also help by:

- Choosing products with less packaging
- Using reusable items
- Picking up litter
- Joining community clean-ups

Small actions can make a big difference when many people help.

The Future of Plastic Pollution

Microplastics are a serious problem, but awareness is growing. More people are learning about pl pollution and looking for solutions. Governments, scientists, and communities are working togeth protect the planet.

The choices we make today will affect the future. By reducing plastic use and caring for the environment, we can help protect animals, ecosystems, and human health.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What are microplastics?
2. How do microplastics form?
3. Name two sources of microplastics.
4. Why are microplastics dangerous to animals?
5. How do microplastics move through the food chain?
6. Where have microplastics been found in the human body?
7. What health problems may be linked to microplastics?
8. How does plastic pollution affect ecosystems?
9. Name two ways people can help reduce plastic pollution.
10. Why is it important to know?

Extension Questions

1. How might microplastics affect future generations?
2. What is your school doing to reduce plastic waste?
3. What new ideas or inventions are helping fight plastic pollution?
4. Should single-use plastics be banned? Why or why not?
5. How could your community reduce plastic use?

Comprehension Questions

- are microplastics?
- **small pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters long.**
- do microplastics form?
- **larger plastic items break down or when fibers and pellets are released.**
- two sources of microplastics.
- **ing fibers, plastic bottles, tire wear, or packaging.**
- are microplastics dangerous to animals?
- **als mistake them for food, which can cause hunger, injury, and poisoning.**
- do microplastics move through the food chain?
- **animals eat them and are then eaten by larger animals.**
- e have microplastics been found in the human body?
- **l, lungs, liver, and unborn babies.**
- health problems may be linked to microplastics?
- **nmation, heart problems, and brain health concerns.**
- does plastic pollution affect ecosystems?

Answer Key Included Office, Google, and PDF Versions

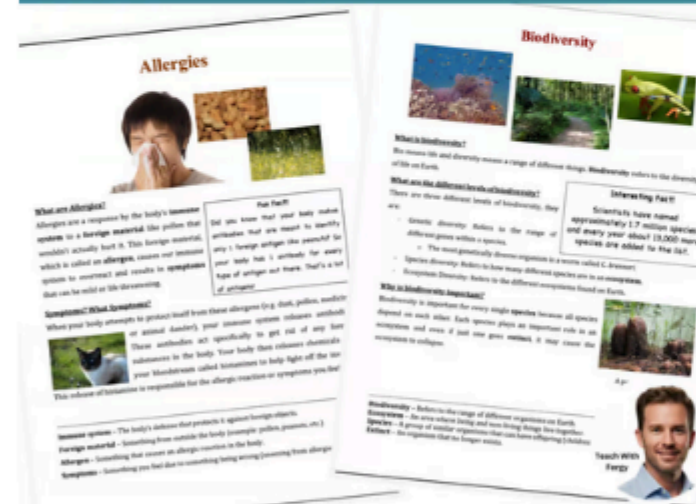


Comprehension and Extension Questions

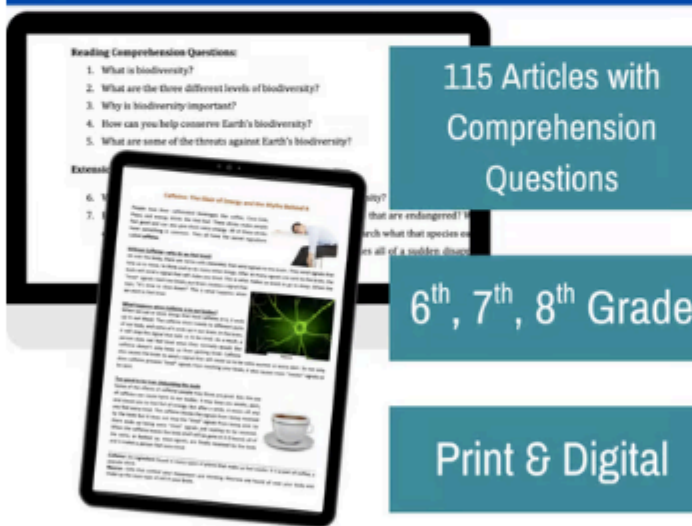
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READING COMPREHENSION ARTICLE & QUESTION MEGA BUNDLE 6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE



READING COMPREHENSION ARTICLE & QUESTION MEGA BUNDLE



CLASSROOM READY

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115 Articles with
Comprehension
Questions

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Print & Digital



6th, 7th, 8th Grade Reading Mega Bundle

Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

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- ✓ No Prep, Ready-to-Use Resource in Google and Office Format
- ✓ Includes Comprehension and Extension Questions



**Click to
learn more!**

★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - So many comprehensive readings for all science fields. PDF and DOCX versions included so they can be edited if needed. Each one includes short answer questions at the end, the first set are easy to find the answers to in the readings, the second set require a bit more critical thinking. Includes an answer key. Great to use to fill in time or for sub plans.

As a special bonus, I want to send you a few resources that you can use in your classroom tomorrow. Completely free and geared towards what you teach!



Just  **and then choose what you teach!**

thanks
**for your interest
in this resource!**



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