

The Synthetic Sea Story

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Complete the following while watching the video:

1. In the Central Pacific Gyre, what was the mass ratio of plastic to phytoplankton?
2. What health problems are encountered by animals that consume plastics: (there are a few)
3. What are nurdles, and why are they such a threat?
 - _____
 - _____
4. Every piece of plastic ever manufactured _____
5. What eventually happens to pieces of plastic in the ocean? _____

6. How many times greater is the concentration of pollutants in floating pieces of plastic in the central pacific gyre than in the surrounding seawater? _____
7. What are “ghost nets”? _____
8. Describe the relationship between salps, plastic particles, and predatory fishes (the big ones like tuna, marlin, and dorado) in the open ocean:
9. Describe the effects of nurdles on turtles:
10. How do windrows exacerbate the plastic problem? _____
11. What local river mouth was sampled in the video and what did researchers find?
12. What % of manufactured plastics actually float? _____ %
13. What color plastic is ingested most commonly in animals that choose their food based on color?
14. How do plastics affect the endocrine systems of many marine animals?
15. How can and how are people cutting down on plastic pollution?
16. What is meant by the term “cradle to cradle”?