

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A Lesson on the State of our Oceans

Designed for EAP Students in Intermediate Reading Classes  
Based on the Ocean Conservancy's 2010 Report, "Trash Travels"

To complete this exercise, you will need to view or download the pdf file located at [http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=program\\_marinedebris\\_ICCreport](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=program_marinedebris_ICCreport)  
Page numbers in this exercise are based on the pages within the document --not necessarily the page number on the report.

### Part 1

Here is a copy of the introduction on page three. Take a good look at the highlighted words.

Ocean Conservancy is releasing this annual marine **debris** report **spotlighting** how **trash** travels to and throughout the ocean and the impacts of that **debris** on the health of people, wildlife, economies, and ocean ecosystems. When we allow **trash** to fall from our hands and move from land to sea and around the world on ocean currents, we create much more than an **eyesore**. Marine **debris** has become one of the worst pollution problems of our time. We've **trashed** our ocean—and it's time for us to **turn the tide**.

Now read the explanation of those highlighted words.

Marine debris is the trash that is present in the oceans. This trash could be anything from plastic bottles to old fishing nets.

The Ocean Conservancy wrote this report to spotlight the pollution in our ocean. In other words, they want to focus our attention on trash in our oceans just like a spotlight in a theater focuses our attention on the performer in center stage.

When your eyes are sore, they hurt, so an "eyesore" is something that looks so bad that it hurts your eyes. In this situation, the author is saying that the pollution in MORE than an eyesore. The trash doesn't just *look* bad, it's causing terrible problems.

When people "trash" something, they destroy it. In this context, trashing our oceans has a double meaning of putting trash in our oceans and as a result destroying them.

Oceans are pulled by the gravity of the moon. This movement of the water is called the “tide” The tide comes in, and a few hours later it goes out. The expression “to turn the tide” means that you do something to change the situation. This is exactly what the author is trying to tell us. We must CHANGE THE SITUATION!

Complete these sentences with the expressions that you have just studied.

spotlight	debris	trashed	eyesore	tide
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My uncle has a place right on the ocean. On Saturday night we all got together at his place for a huge party to celebrate my cousin Anna's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. All her friends from school had brought her gifts, and she loved being in the \_\_\_\_\_. We partied on the beach until 3:00 in the morning and then crawled into bed. The next morning we realized we had \_\_\_\_\_ the backyard. What an \_\_\_\_\_! Garbage was lying everywhere – bottles, cans, Styrofoam plates, plastic forks and spoons. What was worse was that the \_\_\_\_\_ had come in and gone out again taking a lot of the \_\_\_\_\_ with it. We cleaned up what we could, but it was already too late – we saw a lot of trash drifting out to sea... I wonder where it will end up?

## Part 2

Now scan "Message in a Bottle" on page 4 of your pdf file to answer the following questions. When you scan, you don't need to read every word. You just need to look for words or locations that may lead to the right answer.

1. Who is the author of this article and what is her job? (Scan near the title, or at the end of the article.)

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2. There is a lot of pollution / litter in the ocean. What percentage of it starts out on land? (Look for a number with a percentage symbol or the word "percent".)

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3. What is the name of the task force that President Obama appointed to focus on ocean protection? (In this case, scan for President Obama.)

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4. Volunteers who collect trash on the beach collect data about the trash they find. What is the name of the document that stores all of this data? (Scan for the word, "data".)

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5. Cleanups alone can't solve the problem. What else must we do? (This sounds like the conclusion, so scan for the answer in the final lines of the article.)

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### Part 3

On page 5 of your pdf file is a message from Philippe Cousteau. The name will likely sound a bit familiar. When you look at the photo of a young man in a wet suit and think of the context, you will likely make the connection (if you don't already know) that Philippe is related to the famous marine biologist Jacques Cousteau.

#### Inference

Read this entire article, and then answer the following questions. The answers are not spelled out in the context of the article. You will need to use your skills of inference to answer the questions.

1. How does Philippe feel about his grandfather, Jacques Cousteau?
  - a. He admires him and feels that he did a lot to focus attention on our world's oceans.
  - b. He respects him, but feels that he did not do enough to prepare today's generation for the problems it is facing.
2. In the second paragraph, Mr. Cousteau writes, "I saw it myself in beautiful Papua New Guinea, where cans, bottle caps, and countless other items from our disposable society had arrived ahead of me on those remote shores." From this sentence, we can infer that
  - a. Mr. Cousteau blames the people of Papua New Guinea for the trash on its shores.
  - b. Mr. Cousteau thinks that developed countries are responsible for much of the trash on our world's oceans.
3. Mr. Cousteau works with many groups, but according to this article, which does he seem to focus on?
  - a. Scientists / Marine Biologists
  - b. Environmentalists
  - c. Government agencies
  - d. Youth
4. What topic does Mr. Cousteau likely focus on during his presentations about the ocean?
  - a. He focuses on a listing of all the species that are becoming extinct.
  - b. He focuses on climate change and how it's affecting the ocean.
  - c. He focuses on our human connection to the ocean.
  - d. He focuses on governmental responsibility to the oceans and their health.
5. We can infer the Philippe's sister is younger than he is.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
6. We can infer that Philippe and his sister are leaders in the movement to protect our oceans.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
7. We can infer that poor nations have cleaner shores than wealthy nations.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
8. We can infer that certain changes in our behavior can help create a better world.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
9. How would you describe the TONE of this article?
  - a. Hopeful
  - b. Angry
  - c. Apologetic
  - d. Pessimistic

## Part 4

### Vocabulary from Context

Read the story on pages 10 - 11 taking note of any vocabulary words that you don't know. Then return to this page for some practice on understanding vocabulary from context.

1. "Linda Maraniss, a former employee of Ocean Conservancy (then known as the Center for Environmental Education), was appalled by the amount of trash she saw while walking along the shores of South Padre Island, Texas."

When you see a be-verb (was) and the past participle of a verb (appalled), you can often interpret the sentence in two ways. One way is that the sentence is in the passive voice. (The amount of trash appalled her./ She was appalled by the amount of trash.) The other way to interpret this is that there is a subject (Linda Maraniss), a be-verb (was) and a participial adjective (appalled).

Let's define this word, appalled, as an adjective.

What would be a good synonym for "appalled" using the context of this sentence as your foundation?

- a. nervous, anxious, worried
- b. pleased, satisfied, content
- c. shocked, disgusted, horrified

2. "Joining forces with the Texas General Land Office, they rallied volunteers."

In this sentence, you know that "rallied" is a verb because it comes after the subject pronoun, "they". Knowing that "rallied" is a verb, you are better prepared to think of a definition for it. Now look at the object, "volunteers". Now you can guess that a good synonym for "rallied" could be

- a. collected, gathered, assembled
- b. forgot, overlooked, passed up
- c. paid, compensated, funded

3. In the course of nearly a quarter of a century, interest has surged and the Cleanup has become a major international movement to clean shorelines and waterways, collect data, and raise awareness about marine debris.

When you see a word with the auxiliary "has" in front of it, you know that it is a verb. In this context, we know that the subject is "interest", which means the "attention" or "curiosity" of people. Since we know that the Coastal Cleanup has become bigger and bigger over time, we can figure out that a synonym of "has surged" is

- a. has cleaned, has prepared
- b. has finished, has ended
- c. has rushed forward, has grown

4. "The Cleanup generally takes place on the third Saturday in September."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

5. "Volunteers including friends, neighbors, students, and co-workers fan out across shorelines picking up marine litter."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

6. "Because lakes, rivers, and streams, along with the wind, can carry litter to the sea, Cleanups occur not just at the ocean, but inland as well, and take place in landlocked states and countries like Nevada and Luxembourg."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

7. "Volunteers don't just clean up; they tally every item they find on Ocean Conservancy's standardized data cards. This accounting of items picked up in just a few hours on one day provides a global snapshot of the marine debris problem."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

8. "Information cited in the report helped spur the US Congress to enforce restrictions against dumping of garbage at sea by adopting Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, also known as MARPOL 73/78 Annex V."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

9. "In Washington, DC, where Cleanup data documented that single-use bags comprise a large component of local marine debris, the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009 implemented a five-cent fee on disposable paper or plastic bags provided by retailers; anecdotal information reported in the press suggests that consumption of the bags dropped fifty percent almost immediately."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

10. "Marine debris starts as a local issue, but requires global solutions because it often travels far beyond its origins, crossing political and geographical boundaries."

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5** Scan through the rest of this fascinating document and choose a section of one or two pages that looks particularly appealing to you. Read it thoroughly, and summarize it in one paragraph using your own words.