

Pollution

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Illustrations by Eric Hamilton



ollution

Acid rain destroys forests. Oil spills kill coastal plants and animals. Poisons wash into waterways. Plastic trash entangles wildlife. It's easy to see how pollution is a big problem for biodiversity.

Reptiles in Danger

Species of turtles lived 210 million years ago, at the same time as the dinosaurs. However, some species that are alive today are in danger of extinction. For example, a serious threat to marine leatherback turtles is probably all over your home—plastic! When people leave plastic bags, sandwich bags, balloons, and other plastic items on the beach they get swept into the ocean. Clear plastic floating in the water looks a lot like the leatherback's favorite meal—jellyfish. Unsuspecting turtles eat the plastic trash, mistaking it for food. Since it's impossible to digest, plastic's a dangerous diet for any animal!

What you can do:

- Don't use too many plastic bags when they're not necessary.
- Always make sure you throw away your garbage in a trash can and avoid releasing balloons into the air.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a serious threat to marine leatherback turtles that is probably all over your home?

2. Give one example of how pollution can harm plants or animals in the environment.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

3. What is the main idea of this text?

4. The author mentions things you can do to help stop plastic pollution. One is to not use too many plastic bags when they're not necessary. What is something else you can do?

5. How might taking the steps described in the section "What you can do" to help animals?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.