

Ocean Essay

You can see the swirling mass in the distance. Is it coming closer? You watch it invade your home. You swim towards it, curiosity nagging at you. Suddenly something snags your throat. It's clear and thin. You fight to break loose, but it's too late. As you take your final breath questions soar through your mind. Who did this? Why would someone do this? How did this happen? Is there any way to stop it?

Take a second and imagine you were in that situation. How would you feel? Would you ask the same questions? I would. I'd wonder what I had done to deserve that. The truth is nothing. Innocent aquatic animals die every day due to our carelessness and unconcern. It's not often you would put yourself in the shoes of something so much "less" than you. Honestly, how many people really think about what will happen if they don't pick up something they might have dropped on the beach? Do they consider the fact that they could be killing an animal that didn't deserve it? I bet not. They assume it's harmless. They're not *really* thinking. You would never want to trick a friend into eating something poisonous, but you walk around guilt free doing it to animals. It's not that the animals are stupid, they just don't know better.

In the Pacific Ocean there is a "garbage patch" which really isn't much of a patch at all. It is a huge area of plastic. Bottles, toys, bags, it has everything. Plastic is basically not biodegradable, so this patch of trash will never dissolve. It is killing many birds and sea animals as you are reading this. The bigger plastic pieces can trap, suffocate, or drown an animal. The smaller pieces are digested by animals and they cause choking, which leads to death. In some cases, the plastic can actually starve the animal. The plastic will make the animal feel full, when it hasn't had any real food yet. Therefore, the animal unwittingly dies from lack of nutrients. When the animal dies, the plastic will still remain because plastic is indigestible. It will still be in the ocean to cheat yet another innocent animal into death. It is a never ending cycle of harm.

So, what can you do to help? Unfortunately, the damage is irreversible. However, you can stop doing more harm to the innocent animals of the sea with a few steps. First, recycle as much as you can, just like Echo the Squirrel. Use your own bags at the grocery store, and reuse plastic water bottles (or have a reusable stainless steel one). You can also make sure you always pick up your trash. Don't assume someone else will pick it up for you, do it on your own. You can help make the earth a better place along with Echo the Squirrel by using these simple steps to save sea life.