

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch



The 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch' is located in the North Pacific Ocean to the west of California between latitudes 35° north and 42° north and longitudes 135° west and 155° west. Study the ways some people have described it and draw a sketch to show how you think it might look according to the statements.

“An island twice the size of Texas!”

“79,000 tonnes of debris floating”

“3 times the size of France”

“Plastic going around in circles trapped forever”

“How do you convey when you wake up on day four and you’re still seeing this plastic pouring past the boat?”

“The world’s biggest landfill - except that it’s in the ocean”

STUDENT SHEET 1a

1. Study the picture of the real 'garbage patch'. How accurate do you think these statements are?

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2. Make a bullet point list of at least four accurate facts about ocean 'garbage patches'.

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3. Summarise with one short sentence what an ocean 'garbage patch' is like.

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