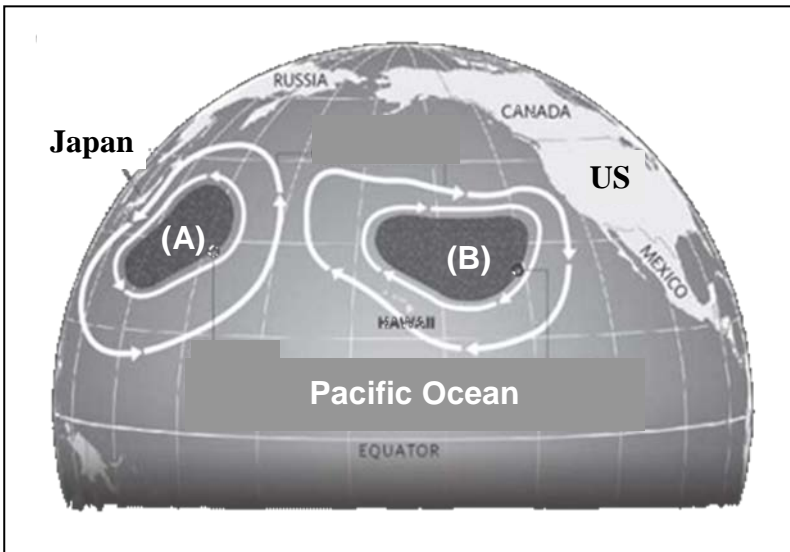


Plastic Island



Plastic Island, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is in the North Central Pacific Ocean. It is bigger than Taiwan by 40 **times** and growing every day. It is now said that there is more than one plastic island. The Western Garbage Patch, another large plastic island, is off the coast of Japan.

About 80% of the garbage comes from lands and 20% from ships. The ocean **currents** carry the garbage together from the west coast of North America and from the east coast of Asia. Smaller plastic islands are at different places throughout the world's oceans.

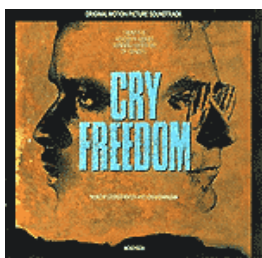
The garbage, mostly plastic, is deadly to the ocean life. There can be hard hats, toothbrushes, bottle caps and boats among it. Much of the garbage has broken down into little pieces, and fish and birds in the area mistake the plastic for food and eat it. This may prevent food **digestion** and cause a very slow and **painful** death. The poisonous stuff also pollutes water and is eaten by little sea living things, which are then eaten by larger fish, many of which are then eaten by humans.

Scientists and some volunteers who are trying to protect the ocean from being polluted have started a plan to study and clean up the garbage patch since March 2009. However, the plastic in the ocean is difficult to be moved away because it is not only on the **surface** but down to more than 100 feet below the ocean surface. And the plastic garbage islands are also quite far away from lands. We humans use plastic things for convenience but hurt ourselves and the whole world in the end. Can't we think about getting rid of plastics little by little?

1. Taiwan is as large as 36,000 square kilometers. How many square kilometers is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch about?
(A) 36,000,000 (B) 1,440,000 (C) 40,000,000 (D) 16,000,000
2. Look at the picture, which is "The Western Garbage Patch"?
(A) (A) (B) (B)


3. Which of the following is the food chain (食物鏈) that is talked about in the paragraph 2 ?
- (A) fish → birds → humans
 (B) little sea living things → fish → birds
 (C) humans → little sea living things → birds
 (D) little sea living things → fish → humans
4. What problem has the plastic garbage patch caused?
- (A) It has become a garbage mountain as high as 100 feet.
 (B) It has stopped ocean water flowing from east to west.
 (C) It has changed the eating habits of sea animals.
 (D) It has polluted the ocean and hurt humans' life.
5. According to the reading, which may be a possible way to do with the problem?
- (A) Making and using fewer plastics.
 (B) Pushing the plastic islands together from every place.
 (C) Breaking the plastic islands into very small pieces.
 (D) Preventing animals eating the plastics by mistake.

Answers: B A D D A



Last week, my English teacher introduced a movie, *Cry Freedom*, in class. It is from the true story of Steve Biko, a leader who cried the black freedom in South Africa, and Donald Woods, a white reporter of a newspaper. After Biko 1, Woods wrote a book which directly named “Biko” to report the history. This book, 2 Woods’s own story, became the basis of the movie.

We were very touched by the powerful movie after seeing it. On the other hand, I know I would find out the meaning and the price of freedom in the story. I, who 3 lucky enough to live in this free country, Taiwan, should love what I have now.

 basis 基礎 directly 直接地

1. (A) catches and killed (B) has caught and killed
 (C) was caught and killed (D) was catching and killing
2. (A) and also (B) along with
 (C) getting together (D) brought with
3. (A) be (B) is (C) are (D) am

Answers: C B D

Teacher's Note:

Plastic Island:

1. 閱讀測驗配合教科書進度提到環保，文法重點為關係字句，因此搜尋網路文章之後，盡量改寫成符合課程進度的句子與單字片語。
2. 原文取自下列網站改寫：
 - <http://www.thechicecologist.com/2009/06/pacific-plastic-trash-island/>
 - <http://www.greenmuze.com/waste/plastics/184-plastic-island-icon-of-consumption.html>
3. 圖片取自下列網站並編修：
 - <http://www.thechicecologist.com/2009/06/pacific-plastic-trash-island/>
4. 另請參考網站：
 - <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/translating-uncle-sam/stories/what-is-the-great-pacific-ocean-garbage-patch>
 - <http://www.mindfully.org/Plastic/Ocean/Honolulu-Patch-Of-Plastic13feb06.htm>
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/22/httpeditorialhuffingtonpo_n_108547.html
 - <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/08/04/pacific.garbage.patch/>
 - <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/08/04/pacific.garbage.patch/>
 - http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my_weblog/2009/08/pacific-voyage-sets-sail-to-study-vast-plastic-island-video.html
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pacific_Garbage_Patch
 - <http://www.greenprophet.com/2009/06/28/10040/rothschild-plastic-island/>
5. Plastic Island 閱讀題組在 101 年國中基測題組 24-26 題亦出現相同主題
<http://www.bctest.ntnu.edu.tw/exam/101/101English150DPI.pdf>