

Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

1111/01

Paper 1 Non-fiction

October 2020

INSERT

1 hour 10 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passages.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Text A

How many things have you used or played with in the last two days that are made of plastic? What did you do with the drinks bottles or burst balloons from your last birthday party? Last time you spent a day at the beach, did you leave litter on the sand, thinking, 'Well, the tide will soon wash that away'?

Around the world, an estimated one million birds and 100 000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year when they become trapped in plastic or eat it, perhaps mistaking it for a tasty treat. It is one of the biggest threats to whales and dolphins in all the world's oceans. Whales in Scotland have been photographed entangled in plastic strapping; whales have washed up in Canada wrapped in plastic fishing line; and, in 2012, a young whale was found dead, floating off the Greek coast. This young whale's stomach contained 100 plastic bags.

Plastic causes death and injury to hundreds of thousands of sea creatures every year through swallowing and entanglement. The Wildlife Trust estimates that 177 species of reptiles, mammals and fish are at risk. Plastic bags and fishing nets are a particular problem. Another worry is the thousands of balloons which inadvertently find their way into the sea every year from mass balloon releases, such as the ones you see on TV or might have taken part in yourself.

Animals swallow plastic, which can suffocate them or give them an artificial sense of being full, leading eventually to starvation. Fish and birds get caught up in plastic at sea or when they use it to build their nests, and they can drown, starve or become easy pickings for bigger creatures.

Perhaps the most worrying fact is that over time, these plastics can break down into tiny particles, be eaten by smaller species and passed up the food chain. So if a shellfish eats some plastic fragments, then a tuna fish eats the shellfish, we could end up eating the waste plastic we thought we had dumped!

There are lots of things you can do to help. Make sure that your family recycles all your plastic waste. Make sure that you set others an example by putting rubbish in a designated bin rather than leaving it on a beach. Don't release balloons into the sky – remember that 70% of the Earth's surface is covered in water so they are likely to land in the sea. Lastly, stop using plastic bags when shopping – take a bag that you can reuse time after time.

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Text B

Endangered green sea turtle with hypothermia rescued!

Green sea turtles are not built for life in the chilly North Pacific, but that's where one found itself on Saturday – washed up and hardly moving on a beach in Pacific Rim National Park, Canada.

The endangered turtle – stunned by the cold – was spotted and reported by a tourist near the high-tide mark on a beach.

Park staff gently lifted 'the patient' on a stretcher made of tarpaulins and blankets, to transport it for treatment at the Vancouver Aquarium. 5

'The turtle arrived in critical condition but is improving,' said Dr Martin Haulena, the aquarium's head veterinarian. 'Its temperature is being carefully monitored during warming. It has also received antibiotics and fluids.'

Treating a cold turtle

The treatment? Warming up, slowly and carefully. 10

Reptiles are cold-blooded, and they depend on their external environment to control their body temperature. So, for an animal that normally lives in warmer water, the cooler water in the Pacific leads to hypothermia, also known in reptiles as 'cold-stunning'. Everything slows down: heart, respiration rates. They can't swim. They can't forage. They get weaker and weaker.

The turtle was admitted for treatment with a body temperature of 11.2 degrees Celsius, and is being warmed gradually, until it reaches normal at 20 degrees. 15

El Niño visitors?

So why did the turtle travel so far north? Strandings like these are more common in an El Niño year, which is when a temporary shift in weather patterns brings warmer water to the Pacific. Sea turtles have been stranded in the Pacific Rim National Park before, including two green sea turtles in 2011 that did not survive. 20

Dr Haulena encourages any visitor that sees a stranded animal to report it but stay away.

'Everybody wants to go and see it, but it's important to keep your distance, because these are stressed animals,' he said.

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