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PLASTIC FREE OCEAN

There was something that frightened me the day I saw a turtle with a chain around the neck in a TV documentary. This turtle was struggling to remove the chain and there was no assistance and to me it looked like the turtle was exhausted and may die at any time. I asked my parents so many questions about why was the turtle in chain as a feature of the documentary? My parents could not give me an answer as to why the person gave it a chain and why that was part of the aspect of the story being told in the documentary. Ops! on a closer look alas! It was not a real chain, it was strips of Nylon that has been wired round the animal neck that gave the impression of a chain tied around its neck. I wish I could assist the turtle but I could not because it was a TV documentary.

First of all, I would like to define the following keywords:

PLASTIC: any of a large number of synthetic materials that can be molded when soft or set.

FREE: able to act at will; not under any form of compulsion or restraint

OCEAN: the vast area of salt water covering about 70 percent of the earth surface

PLASTIC FREE OCEAN can be defined as an ocean free of objects defined as plastic in nature.

Now that we know what plastic is we would now look at the contents of plastic

Contents of a plastic object

A plastic or plastics made of elements like carbon hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, chlorine and sulfur which when eaten by marine animals stays in their guts and once it is in the guts it prevents food digestion and it leads to a slow and painful death. Some soft ones plastic materials are called nylon also strangulate the animals when it is wrapped around the aquatic animal like the turtle for example as showed in the TV documentary as shared above.

To marine animals plastic does not only look like food to them but also smells, feels, and even sounds like food that is why thousand of marine animals die from ingesting plastic materials. Unique aquatic animals that are killed as a result of ingesting plastics therefore become an endangered species.

Here are some of the marine species that we have been taught at Biology class that have been deeply affected by plastic pollution activities in our Ocean, for example the Atlantic Ocean in

West Africa as well as other Oceans in other Continents around the World:

1. Sea turtle
2. Seals and sea lions
3. Sea birds
4. Fishes
5. Whales and dolphins
6. Polar bears

Instead of polluting the marine environment with plastics we as young people can do join older people to do the following: after collecting the plastics during Beach cleaning

1. Sell it to those recycling to make more money
2. Recycle the plastics to make other things that will be useful to man
3. Use to develop other useful item in other area of endeavors

Uses of plastics

Plastic can be used for the following:

1. For production of household utensils
2. Construction works in buildings
3. Electrical and electronic applications
4. Plastic packaging
5. Transportation

Advantages of plastics

1. People mostly use plastics because they are cheap and easy to buy compare to ceramics, glass, steel or aluminum.
2. It is durable
3. Low cost
4. Water resistant
5. Lesser energy and heavy chemicals requirements in manufacture and is light weight.

Disadvantages of plastics

1. Plastics bags are made of a non-renewable resource, which gives us more reasons to use recyclable shopping bags.
2. They are a hazard to wildlife animals, if they are not disposed properly.
3. Plastic bags clog or block roadside drains, which could cause the flooding of the street at heavy rainfalls.

Fig 1. The pictures below describes the ocean as a plastic free ocean whereby there is no form of plastic or debris which makes the ocean safe for the animals and for our use.

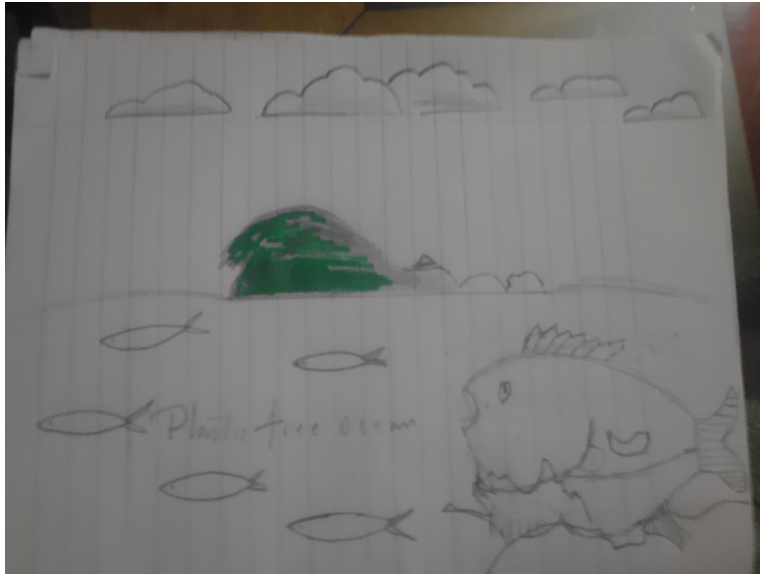


FIG 1: Plastic free ocean with healthy animals

The pictures below show a non-plastic free ocean whereby the ocean is contaminated with all kind of debris and mostly plastic substances. The ocean is unsafe for use and for all kinds of marine organism

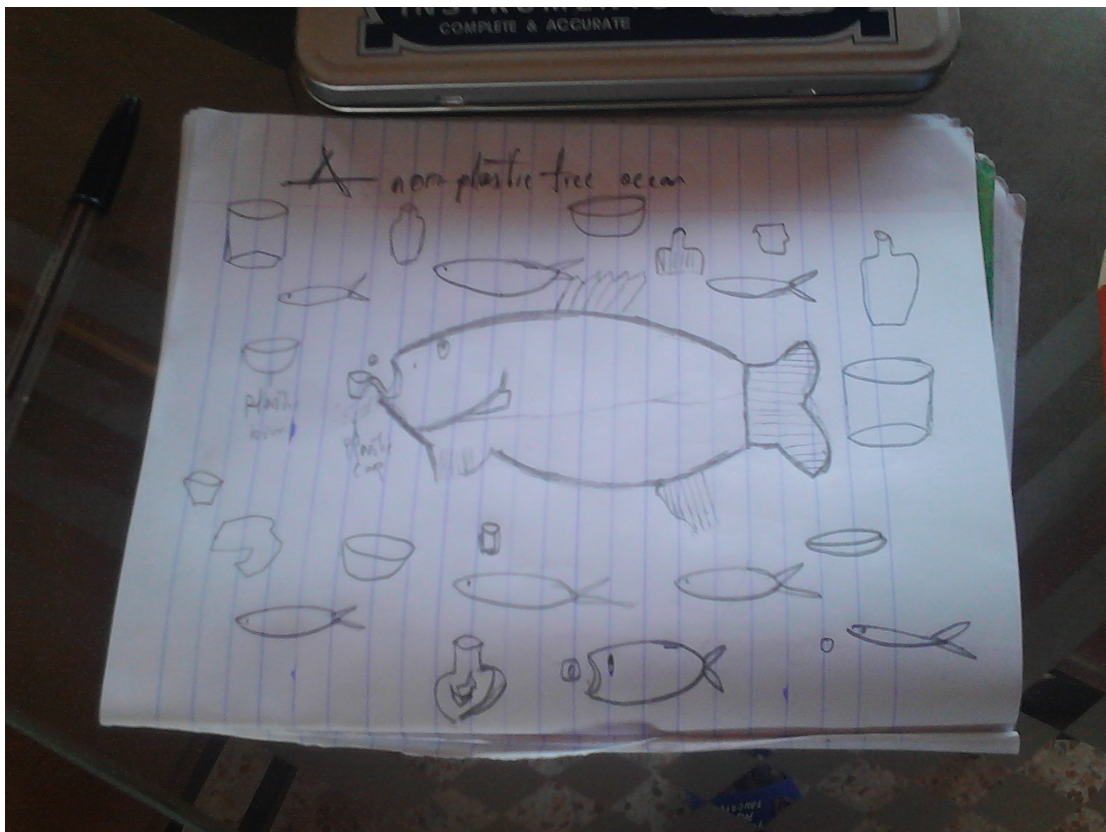


FIG2: shows a non-plastic free ocean.