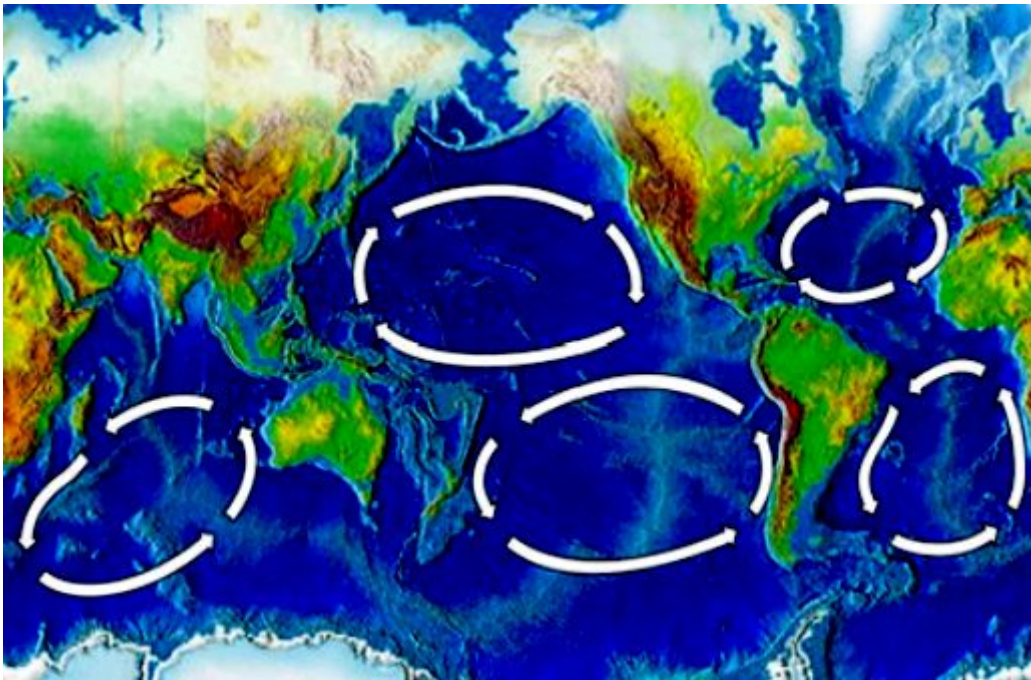


## Plastic Islands

Marine litter is carried through the world's oceans by wind and water currents. These currents result in the litter on the top layers of the water swirling around and gathering in certain areas of the ocean. These collections of litter have been nicknamed 'plastic islands' as they are mostly made up of plastic litter. Although a layer of thick floating rubbish that you could walk on is what you may have in mind, these 'islands' can actually be difficult to see, as they are made up of millions of small pieces of plastic. These are litter hot spots of the ocean and can harm marine wildlife. Many of these 'plastic islands' exist, but the ocean worst affected appears to be the Pacific Ocean which holds the 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch'.



Carry out a research project on **Plastic Islands**.

Some ideas you could investigate:

- What types of plastic litter make up these 'plastic islands'.

- How these plastic islands affect humans and marine wildlife.
- The direction of ocean currents around the world.
- How we can help reduce the amount of plastic entering our oceans.

#### Resources

<http://nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/19102-pacific-oceans-plastic-island>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFUHLtaTazQ>

[http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/trashtalk\\_garbagepatch/welcome.html](http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/trashtalk_garbagepatch/welcome.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ773hCN2sU>