

Whale Dies After Eating More Than 80 Plastic Bags

A pilot whale suffered and died in southern Thailand this week after ingesting more than 80 plastic bags. The 17 pounds of plastic were found in the short-fin pilot whale's stomach during an autopsy. Veterinarians and volunteers had worked hard to care for the whale after locals spotted it floating strangely in a canal. Thailand's marine and coastal resources department says this whale has inspired them to raise awareness about the dangers of plastics. June 8 is World Oceans Day. This year's theme is "preventing plastic pollution."

Vocabulary

ingest - to eat or take into one's body

autopsy - an exam to determine the cause of death

canal - an artificial waterway

coastal - related to a place where the land meets the water

Comprehension Questions

1. Where was the sick whale found?
2. What was found inside the whale?
3. How does this story relate to World Oceans Day?

Discussion Questions

1. How often do you use plastic?
2. What was the plastic pollution rate ten years ago? Has the rate decreased since then?
3. What are the biggest threats caused by plastic pollution?
4. Is plastic being recycled more frequently and being reused more efficiently?
5. Do you feel that recycling plastic would help with plastic pollution in the oceans?
6. What is your country's position on bioplastics, especially when considering their lifecycle impacts?
7. What do you do with people from your own social circle who are uninterested or unwilling to change their behavior toward plastic use?
8. Which cleanup efforts do you think are the most effective?
9. What will it take to solve the plastic pollution problem?
10. What can you do to help prevent plastic pollution?

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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