

Name: _____ Date: _____

Synthesis

Directions: Answer the questions below using details from "The Problem of Plastic" and "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" When you are finished, you can use your answers to help you respond to the writing prompt on page 15.

1. Jot down some reasons why plastic trash is a problem. For each reason, indicate which article the information came from.

2. Fill in the chart below with possible solutions to the plastic trash problem. For each solution, check a box in the second column to show whether it came from the article "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" or is your own idea.

Solution	Source
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" <input type="checkbox"/> My own idea
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" <input type="checkbox"/> My own idea
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" <input type="checkbox"/> My own idea
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" <input type="checkbox"/> My own idea
	<input type="checkbox"/> "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" <input type="checkbox"/> My own idea

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

Paired Texts Vocabulary

"The Problem of Plastic"

- 1. accumulate (uh-KY00-myuh-leyt)** *verb*; To accumulate is to collect, gather, or let pile up. A stamp collector accumulates stamps.
- 2. developing nation (dih-VEL-up-ing NEY-shuhn)** *noun*; A developing nation is one in which most citizens are poor and that has little industrial development. Poor sanitation, hunger, and a lack of access to education are among the challenges people in developing nations often face.
- 3. drudgery (DRUH-juh-ree)** *noun*; Drudgery is boring, unpleasant, or difficult work. Completing a long list of household chores, shoveling snow off the driveway, and standing in a line for an hour are tasks that people might consider drudgery.
- 4. savvy (SA-vee)** *adjective*; Someone who is savvy is knowledgeable and experienced, and has a good understanding of how to do something. Ken's parents might ask him to help them install some new software on their computer because he is savvy with computers.

"Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?"

- 5. advocate (AD-vuh-kit)** *noun or (AD-vuh-kayt) verb*; An advocate is a person who supports or argues for the interests of another person, group, or cause. Advocates often speak, write, or take action to defend something they believe in. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a passionate advocate for civil rights.

As a verb, *advocate* means "to support, recommend, or argue for something or someone—to act as an advocate." The student council might advocate for a change to the dress code by talking to the principal about what changes students would like to see and why.

- 6. infrared (in-fruh-RED)** *adjective*; Everything in the world gives off a certain amount of heat, even ice. This heat creates infrared light, which is a type of light that the human eye cannot see. The warmer something is, the more infrared light it gives off. An infrared camera can see infrared light and turns what it detects into images that humans are able to see. In this way, infrared cameras allow us to "see" in the dark.

7. renowned (re-NOWNED) *adjective*; Someone or something that is renowned is famous, highly respected, or admired. A scientist who is known for making an important discovery is a renowned scientist. A renowned restaurant has a great reputation. LeBron James is a renowned basketball player.

Directions: Below, list any other words from either text whose definition you are unsure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question.

1. For which of the following might a doctor advocate?

- Ⓐ exercising at least three times a week
- Ⓑ eating a diet of mostly candy

2. Which of the following would most people consider drudgery?

- Ⓐ addressing and putting stamps on 100 letters
- Ⓑ going to an amusement park

3. Which would you be more likely to find in a developing nation?

- Ⓐ shiny new skyscrapers
- Ⓑ older, less modern buildings and homes

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

4. **savvy**

- Ⓐ intelligent
- Ⓑ foolish

6. **renowned**

- Ⓐ ordinary
- Ⓑ celebrated

5. **advocate**

- Ⓐ support
- Ⓑ disapprove

7. **accumulate**

- Ⓐ divide
- Ⓑ pile up

Directions: In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

8. Three inches of snow have already **accumulated/advocated** since the snowplow cleared our street this morning.

9. The **renowned/savvy** singer's concert sold out in minutes.

10. The team of scientists used **infrared/savvy** technology to help them study the animals living in the cave.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"The Problem of Plastic"

1. The author provides examples of items that contain plastic, such as cars, phones, potato chip bags, and toothbrushes. Why do you think she does this? (author's craft)
2. What effects does plastic trash have on the environment? (cause and effect)
3. What is the difference between the plastic used in a smartphone and the plastic used in a bag to carry apples? (key ideas)
4. What is the main purpose of the section "Throwaway Culture"? (text structure)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?"

1. In the section “Ditch Plastic,” Mackenzie Carro explains that some businesses are partnering with a service called Loop to start packaging and delivering products in reusable containers. What does this suggest about America’s “throwaway culture”? (synthesizing)
2. Describe the author’s tone in the section “What We Can Do.” What words and phrases help create this tone? (tone)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Critical-Thinking Questions

"The Problem of Plastic" and "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?"

1. Do you think that humans should stop using plastic entirely?
2. How does reading both articles give you a better understanding of the world's plastic crisis?
3. In what ways, if any, might you change your habits after reading these articles?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Paired Texts Quiz

Directions: Read “The Problem of Plastic” and “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” Then answer the questions below.

- On page 12, author Mackenzie Carro writes, “Experts are sounding the alarm about the problem of plastic trash.” Context clues reveal that the expression *sound the alarm* means
 - make a formal request.
 - explain a complex idea.
 - hide or disguise.
 - warn people of danger.
- The statistic “40 percent of plastic items are used once and thrown away” supports Carro’s claim that
 - plastic is synthetic.
 - we have come to see throwaway culture as normal.
 - disposable items are harming marine animals.
 - microplastics are difficult to get rid of.
- According to Carro, over the past 100 years, the amount of plastic waste has
 - decreased thanks to recycling efforts.
 - increased enormously.
 - increased slightly.
 - stayed exactly the same.
- Which lines support your answer to Question 3?
 - “Plastic was so cheap there seemed no reason not to toss it out . . .” and “It’s easy to see why.”
 - “It was used in everything from airplane parts to parachutes” and “Or it gets blown into the ocean.”
 - “50 percent of all plastic ever made was produced in the past 15 years” and “The amount of plastic we throw away has hit an all-time high.”
 - “But wait. What about recycling?” and “What happens to you now?”
- The main purpose of “The Problem of Plastic” is to _____, whereas the main purpose of “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” is to _____.
 - teach readers about the Philippines; teach readers about a problem on South Boston’s beaches
 - describe factories during World War II; describe infrared technology
 - inform readers about the problem of plastic trash; share ideas for solving the plastic trash problem
 - explain how plastic is made; spotlight a school district’s ban on plastic straws
- Which ideas are supported by information in both articles? Choose TWO answers.
 - Plastic slowly breaks down into tiny pieces.
 - Many places are banning the use of plastic straws.
 - Plastic trash is dangerous for marine animals.
 - There are many advantages to using plastic.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answer to the question below in a well-organized response.

- On page 15, Carro writes that “the key to progress will be persistence.” What does she mean and why will persistence be necessary? Use details from both articles to support your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Paired Texts Quiz

Directions: Read “The Problem of Plastic” and “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” Then answer the questions below.

- On page 12, author Mackenzie Carro writes, “Experts are sounding the alarm about the problem of plastic trash.” Context clues reveal that *sound the alarm* means
 (A) request.
 (B) inform.
 (C) disguise.
 (D) warn.
- Which statistic BEST supports the claim that throwaway culture has become “normal—expected even”?
 (A) “Scientists estimate that more than 700 marine species have been harmed by plastic.”
 (B) “40 percent of plastic items are used once and thrown away.”
 (C) “In the year 2500, some of these pieces may *still* exist.”
 (D) “Put it this way: An elephant weighs just 6 tons.”
- According to Carro, over the past 100 years, the amount of plastic use we throw away has
 (A) decreased.
 (B) increased.
 (C) stayed exactly the same.
 (D) stayed about the same.
- Which of the following lines BEST supports your answer to Question 3?
 (A) “Plastic was so cheap there seemed no reason not to toss it out after using it.”
 (B) “It was used in everything from airplane parts to parachutes.”
 (C) “The amount of plastic we throw away has hit an all-time high.”
 (D) “But wait. What about recycling?”
- The main purpose of “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” is to
 (A) teach readers about South Boston’s beaches.
 (B) describe infrared technology.
 (C) share exciting ways people are working to solve the world’s plastic trash problem.
 (D) spotlight a school district’s ban on plastic straws.
- Which of the following ideas are supported by both articles? (Choose TWO answers.)
 (A) Plastic slowly breaks down into tiny pieces.
 (B) Many places are passing laws banning the use of certain plastic products.
 (C) Plastic trash can be deadly for marine animals.
 (D) There are many advantages to using plastic.

Constructed-Response Question



Directions: Write your answer to the question below in a well-organized response.

- What is throwaway culture? How can we fight it? Use text evidence from both articles to support your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exploring Text Structures

"Text structure" is the term for how an author organizes information. Authors use different text structures to achieve different purposes, and one piece of writing often has multiple text structures.

Directions: Common text structures are listed in the boxes on the right. Use the information in these boxes to help you answer the questions below about the text structures in "The Problem of Plastic" and "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?"

1. The introduction of the article uses **description**. What is the author describing?

Description or List

Includes details to help you picture or get to know a person, a place, a thing, or an idea

Cause and Effect

Explains *why* something happened (cause) and *what* happened as a result (effect)

2. **A.** Underline the text structure the author uses in the last five paragraphs of the section "Miracle Material" in the article "The Problem of Plastic."

cause and effect

sequence of events

- B.** Explain how you know, using evidence from the text.

- C.** The author also uses a **compare-and-contrast** structure in the first two paragraphs of "Miracle Material." What is she comparing?

Problem and Solution

Presents a problem and explains how it is solved

Compare and Contrast

Presents the similarities and/or differences between two items, such as a pair of events, time periods, ideas, or places

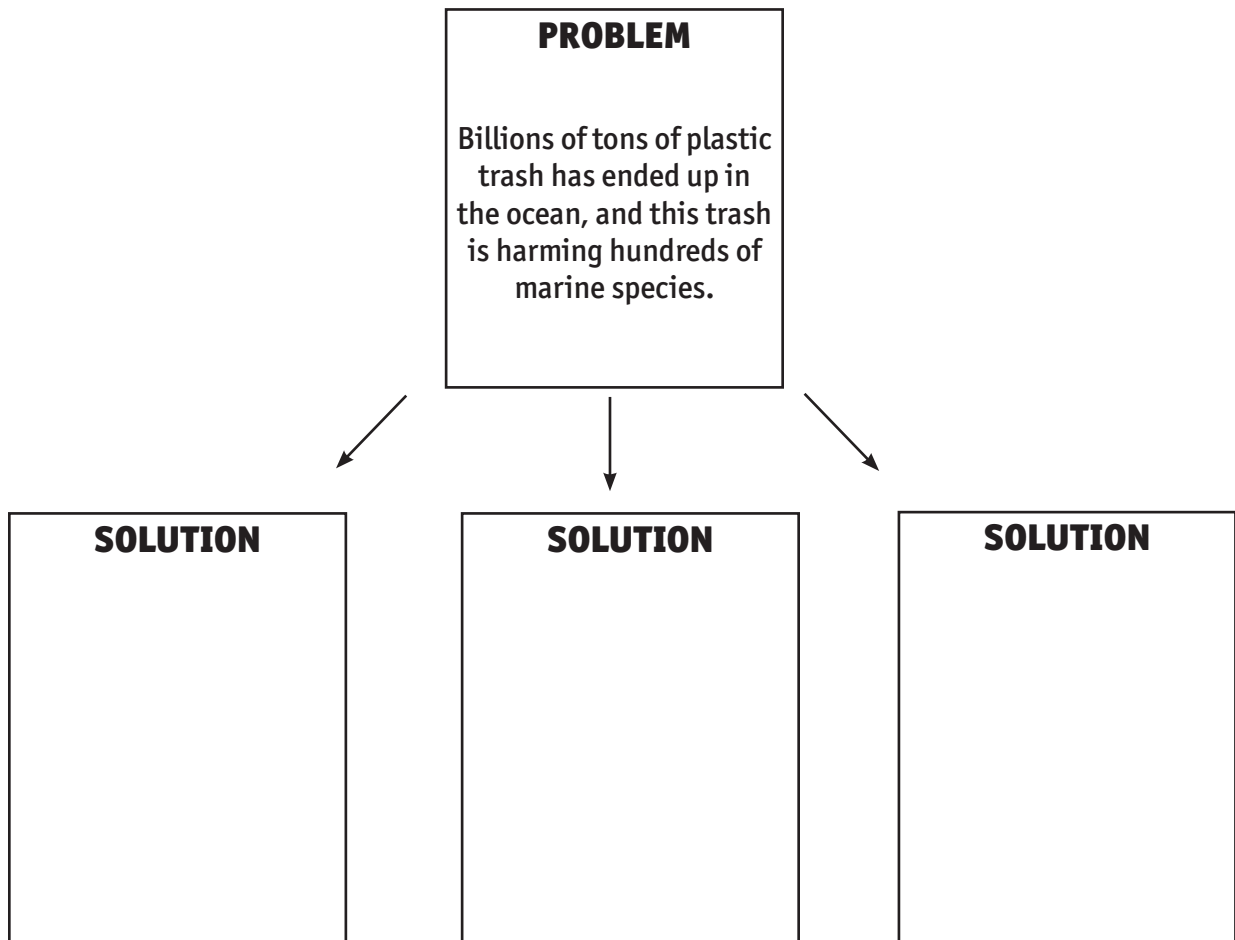
Sequence of Events

Describes events in the order in which they happen (also called chronological order)

3. A. In the article "The Problem of Plastic, Which text structure does the author use in the section "Throwaway Culture"?

- B. Explain how you know, using evidence from the text.

4. In "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" the author uses a **problem-and-solution** structure to explain how the problem of plastic can be addressed. Fill in the empty boxes below to identify three solutions to the plastic problem that the author presents in the article. (You may quote lines from the article or paraphrase.)



Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding and Using Text Evidence

Directions: Read "The Problem of Plastic" and "Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?" Then complete the activity below.

1. Imagine that you are writing a paragraph explaining how plastic trash affects ocean ecosystems.

A. Which of the following would be the BEST topic sentence for your paragraph?

- Ⓐ Plastic trash damages ocean ecosystems by harming marine animals.
- Ⓑ More than 9 million tons of plastic trash end up in the ocean each year.
- Ⓒ There is so much plastic trash in the ocean because most plastic is not recycled.

B. Which information from the article BEST supports the sentence you chose in part A?

- Ⓐ "Instead, it piles up in landfills, where it can leak harmful chemicals into the ground." (p. 13)
- Ⓑ "The amount of plastic we throw away has hit an all-time high." (p. 13)
- Ⓒ "Many creatures accidentally eat plastic thinking it is food. With stomachs full of plastic and no room for real food, these animals can starve." (p. 13)

C. Which of the following BEST explains why the text evidence you chose in part B is relevant?

- Ⓐ It explains why there is so much plastic waste in the ocean.
- Ⓑ It explains how plastic trash harms marine animals.
- Ⓒ It shows what happens to plastic trash after we throw it away.

2. Choose the piece of text evidence from "The Problem of Plastic" that BEST supports the statement below. Then complete the sentence to explain your choice.

People have started to use more plastic over time.

- Ⓐ "During World War II (1939-1945), factories turned to plastic to make wartime supplies." (p. 13)
- Ⓑ "And today, it's the plastic stuff we use once—wrappers, bags, bottles—that is causing massive environmental damage." (p. 13)
- Ⓒ "In 1960, the average American used about 30 pounds of plastic each year. Today, it's more than 300 pounds." (p. 13)

I chose ____ because _____

3. A. Choose the THREE pieces of text evidence from "The Problem of Plastic" that BEST support the statement below.

Plastic pollution in the ocean is a serious problem.

- Ⓐ "Scientists estimate that more than 700 marine species have been harmed by plastic." (p. 13)
- Ⓑ "Can this terrible problem be solved? Yes." (p. 13)
- Ⓒ "Other animals get dangerously tangled in plastic six-pack drink holders or suffocate inside plastic bags." (p. 13)
- Ⓓ "Now, more than 9 million tons of plastic trash end up in the ocean each year." (p. 13)
- Ⓔ "Instead, it piles up in landfills, where it can leak harmful chemicals into the ground." (p. 13)

B. Select one piece of INCORRECT evidence from above and explain why it does NOT support the statement.

Evidence ____ does not support the statement because _____

4. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “The Problem of Plastic” in the form of a direct quotation.

- Ⓐ Plastic is an important material in the modern world. Plastic is in our phones and toothbrushes and eyeglasses, in our cars and refrigerators (13). In other words, plastic is used for many of the items we depend on each day.
- Ⓑ Plastic is an important material in the modern world. In her article “The Problem of Plastic,” author Mackenzie Carro writes, “Plastic is in our phones and toothbrushes and eyeglasses, in our cars and refrigerators” (13).
- Ⓒ Plastic is an important material in the modern world. In her article “The Problem of Plastic,” author Mackenzie Carro writes, “Plastic is in our phones and toothbrushes and eyeglasses, in our cars and refrigerators” (13). In other words, plastic is used for many of the items we depend on each day.

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____

5. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” in the form of a paraphrase.

- Ⓐ Businesses have joined the fight against plastic pollution. For example, in her article “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?,” author Mackenzie Carro explains that some companies are working with a service called Loop, which will package and deliver products in plastic-free, reusable containers (15). In other words, businesses are starting to try to reduce the amount of plastic they use.
- Ⓑ Businesses have joined the fight against plastic pollution. Some companies are working with a service called Loop, which will package and deliver products in plastic-free, reusable containers.
- Ⓒ Businesses have joined the fight against plastic pollution. For example, in her article “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?,” author Mackenzie Carro explains that some companies are working with a service called Loop, which “will package and deliver items in reusable containers made of glass or metal instead of plastic” (15). In other words, businesses are starting to try to reduce the amount of plastic they use.

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____

- **a topic sentence**
- **at least one piece of text evidence in the form of a paraphrase or a direct quotation from each article**
- **a sentence that states how that evidence supports your central idea**

[illegible]

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding Text Evidence

Directions: Read “The Problem of Plastic” and “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?,” then complete the activity below.

1. Choose the TWO pieces of text evidence from “The Problem of Plastic” that best support the statement below.

STATEMENT:

Plastic is an important material in the modern world.

- Ⓐ “Other pieces will be eaten by fish, sea turtles, and birds.” (p. 12)
- Ⓑ “The books we order online come packed in plastic. Our shampoo comes in plastic bottles and our toothpaste in plastic tubes. We even put our apples into plastic bags before we buy them.” (p. 13)
- Ⓒ “But 100 years ago, plastic was not part of our lives.” (p. 13)
- Ⓓ “Plastic is in our phones and toothbrushes and eyeglasses, in our cars and refrigerators.” (p. 13)

2. Choose the ONE piece of text evidence from “The Problem of Plastic” that best supports the statement below. Then complete the sentence to explain your choice.

STATEMENT:

People have started to use more plastic over time.

- Ⓐ “During World War II (1939-1945), factories turned to plastic to make wartime supplies.” (p. 13)
- Ⓑ “And today, it’s the plastic stuff we use once—wrappers, bags, bottles—that is causing massive environmental damage.” (p. 13)
- Ⓒ “In 1960, the average American used about 30 pounds of plastic each year. Today, it’s more than 300 pounds.” (p. 13)

I chose ____ because _____

3. Below are a statement and two pieces of supporting evidence from “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” Find one more piece of supporting evidence from the article and write it on the lines below.

STATEMENT:

There are many things we can do to help solve the planet’s plastic crisis.

Ⓐ “. . . many cities, states, and even entire countries are now passing laws banning certain plastic products.” (p. 15)

Ⓑ “Last year, 12-year-old Chloe Mei Espinosa convinced leaders of her school district in California to stop providing plastic straws in 33 school cafeterias.” (p. 15)

Ⓒ _____

.....

4. Read the lines below from “The Problem of Plastic” and “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” Then write a statement that they all support.

STATEMENT:

Ⓐ “Scientists estimate that more than 700 marine species have been harmed by plastic.” (p. 13)

Ⓑ “This is what makes microplastics so dangerous for marine animals, many of which get sick or die after eating them.” (p. 15)

Ⓒ “Other animals get dangerously tangled in plastic six-pack drink holders or suffocate inside plastic bags.” (p. 13)

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file. If you are e-mailing a video or audio entry, please either attach the file or use a file-sharing platform such as Dropbox.

Plastic Trash Contest

Why is plastic trash a problem? How can this problem be solved? Answer both questions in the form of an essay, slideshow, podcast, or video. Three winners will each get

The Wild Beyond by Piers Torday.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ use of information from both texts
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- ⇒ clarity and good organization
- ⇒ creativity

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Plastic Trash Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 15, 2019!