

Today my students and I watched a webinar about ocean debris. This was a webinar from the NOAA hosted by Krista Stegemann. We listened to things such as what a garbage patch is. How much trash is dumped into the ocean and what we can do to help keep this from happening. They also learned what was classified as trash and how it is everywhere in the ocean even on the ocean floor.

Marine debris is what they focused their talking about. I was surprised that 8,000,000 metric tons of plastic debris enters the ocean every year. It comes from land based and ocean based sources. We do know that 100% of the debris comes from us the people. I found myself pondering about how we can suffer from debris in our oceans and how it will affect our health. We have this man made trash that we do not even think about and it ends up entering our ocean. But again being landlocked and nowhere near an ocean you do not think of the effects it has on our marine life and my life too!

My students were intrigued by the visuals of marine animals that were affected by the trash. This caused a lot of sad faces and gestures. One student said that they didn't realize these animals would eat this trash and then it would land on a plate we may eat. Students had also never heard of the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" and had no clue what it was. They were shocked that it was not an island of floating trash. They learned that the trash was everywhere and it can be tiny or large and reach as far as the ocean floor.



