

SCIENCE BULLETIN: PLASTIC TRASH THREATENS SEABIRDS	
Questions	Birds and Plastic
1. How have people changed the habitat in this example?	<i>People manufacture and use plastic at high rates. Plastic is not bio-degradable, and when thrown away improperly can end up in large areas in the Pacific Ocean. These areas are the habitats of seabirds, which mistake the plastic for food.</i>
2. Why do people change the habitat ? How does it help us?	<i>People use plastic for everything from food containers to shoes. Plastic makes our lives much easier, and it is a large part of our daily lives.</i>
3. How do the habitat changes impact populations in this area?	<i>The adult seabirds feed the plastic to their offspring, causing the offspring to die.</i>
4. How do you know that the habitat is being changed and that local populations are affected? Describe the evidence or data .	<i>Scientific research on the Pacific Garbage Patch has shown higher mortality of seabird young with plastic in their gullets. Surveys in the area show high levels of plastic trash.</i>
5. Suggest how to solve this problem.	<i>Decrease the amount of plastic we use, recycle, properly dispose of plastic trash, and clean up the Pacific Garbage Patches.</i>