



# Polluted Oceans



by Ellen Lawrence

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# Dangerous Trash

In a warm, blue ocean, a sea turtle spots something white floating in the water.

It looks like a tasty jellyfish—but it's not!

It's a plastic bag drifting in the sea.

If the turtle eats it, the animal could get very sick and die!

- Every year, billions of pieces of trash end up in the ocean.
- The garbage includes plastic bags, bottles, soda cans, and even old tires!





How do you think garbage gets into the ocean?



sea turtle



plastic bag



Can you tell which is a plastic bag and which are jellyfish?

(The answer is on page 24.)





# Dumped into the Ocean

Every day, huge amounts of trash get into the ocean. How?

Sometimes, people on boats dump their garbage into the ocean.

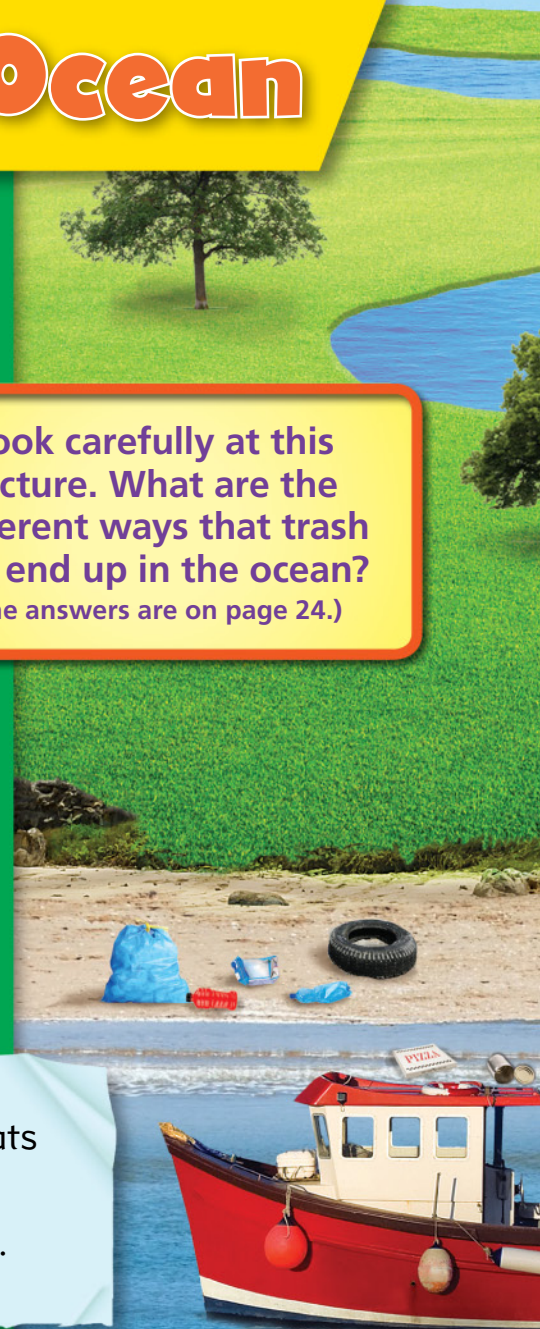
Other times, trash dropped on a beach is carried into the water by ocean waves.

Garbage dumped in a river can also be carried out to sea.

That's because all rivers eventually flow into the sea.

Look carefully at this picture. What are the different ways that trash can end up in the ocean?  
(The answers are on page 24.)

- People who work on fishing boats sometimes dump old ropes and torn fishing nets into the ocean.





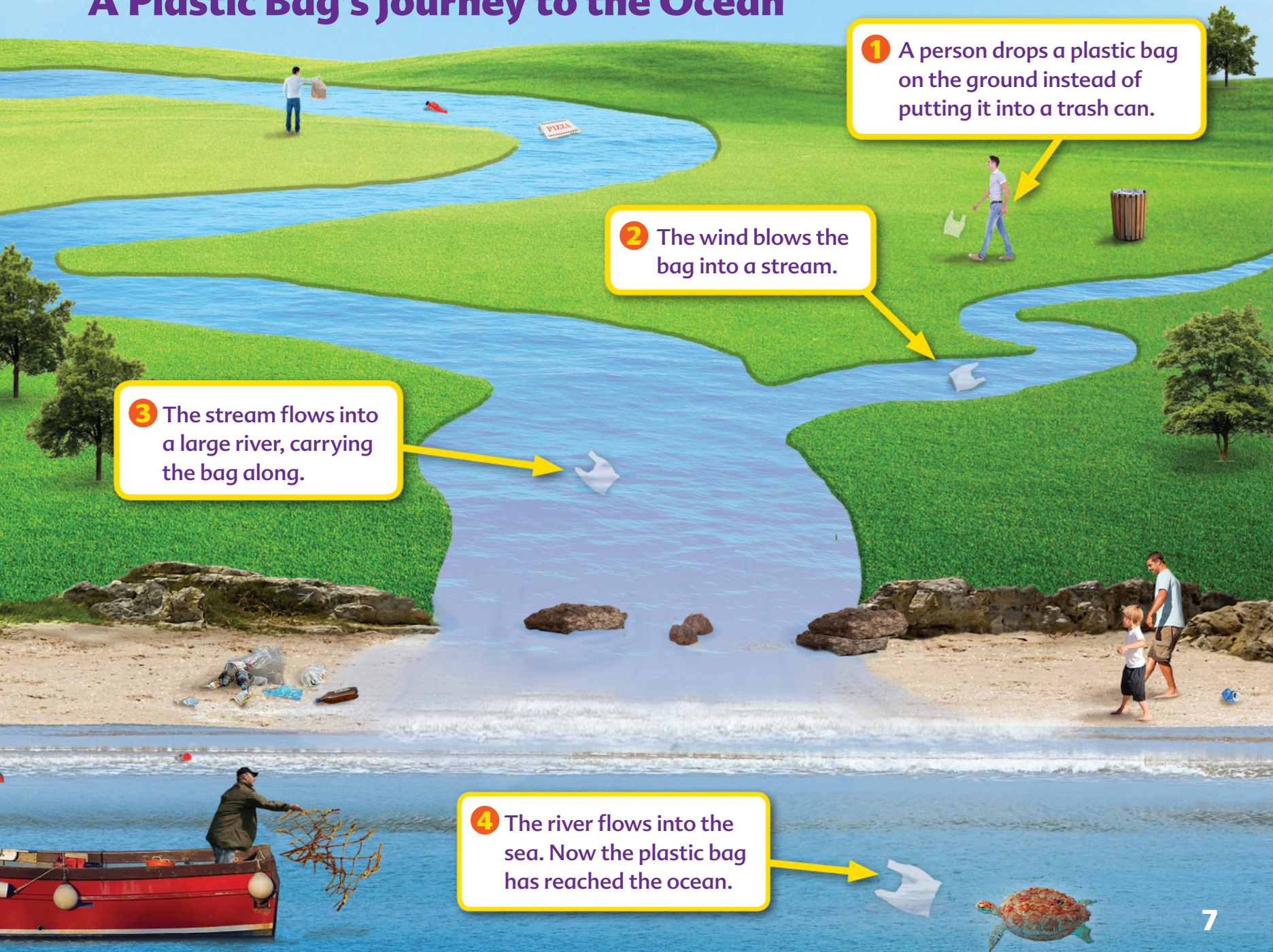
# A Plastic Bag's Journey to the Ocean

**1** A person drops a plastic bag on the ground instead of putting it into a trash can.

**2** The wind blows the bag into a stream.

**3** The stream flows into a large river, carrying the bag along.

**4** The river flows into the sea. Now the plastic bag has reached the ocean.





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## Read More

**Jakubiak, David J.** *What Can We Do About Oil Spills and Ocean Pollution? (Protecting Our Planet)*. New York: PowerKids Press (2012).

**Mason, Paul.** *Oceans Under Threat (World In Peril)*. Chicago: Heinemann (2009).

## About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about nature and animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

## Learn More Online

To learn more about ocean pollution, visit [www.bearportpublishing.com/GreenWorldCleanWorld](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/GreenWorldCleanWorld)

## Answers

Answer for page 5

This is a plastic bag.



Answers for pages 6–7

Ways that trash can end up in the ocean:

- People drop trash into rivers. Then it is carried out to sea by the rivers.
- People drop or dump trash on beaches and it is washed out to sea.
- Trash left on the ground is blown into rivers by the wind and carried out to sea.
- People drop trash into the ocean from boats.



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# Polluted Oceans

Every year, huge amounts of pollution, including plastic bags, old fishing nets, and harmful chemicals, end up in our oceans. As a result, animals that live in or near the sea often get sick—and sometimes die! Luckily, we can stop this from happening. Look inside to learn more about polluted oceans and what you can do to help clean them up.

**Dirty Air**

**Garbage Galore**

**Global Warming**

**Poisoned Rivers and Lakes**

**Polluted Oceans**

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