#### **Example from The Problem with Plastic**

## Explain how the photo contributes to the understanding of the article. Support your answer with details from the article.

our toothbrush. Your headphones. A bottle of juice or a cereal bar wrapper. You may not realize it, but you probably use or touch plastic dozens of times each day.

You're not alone. For years, people have sipped from plastic straws and carried groceries in plastic bags. But nearly all the plastic we use gets thrown away. In fact, in the time it takes to read this sentence, Americans will have tossed more than 20,000 pounds of plastic! All that waste is causing big problems for the planet.

That's why people around the U.S. are working to reduce plastic usage. But will their efforts be enough?

Plastic as we know it was invented in the early 1900s. But for most Americans, it didn't become a big part of everyday life until the 1950s. That's when companies began to make household goods with plastic. **Disposable** plates, cups, and other items were advertised as a way to save time. Instead of washing dishes, people could simply throw them out after every meal.

Over time, plastic became a low-cost, **durable** replacement for other materials. Plastic bottles don't shatter like glass ones. And plastic bags are sturdier than paper bags.



Today, at least 40 percent of all plastic produced is singleuse. That means it's used only once and then thrown away. Experts say single-use plastic is creating the biggest problems, especially in the sea.

What happens to the plastic we throw away? Only about 9 percent of it gets recycled. Most of the rest ends up in landfills, buried under layers of dirt. Experts think this plastic may take centuries to decompose, or break down.

But a lot of plastic trash never reaches landfills. Instead, it becomes litter on the street. Rain and wind carry that litter into storm drains or rivers that flow to the ocean.

When plastic waste ends up

in the ocean, the results can be deadly. Last year, a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain. Scientists found that the whale had eaten 64

pounds of plastic, including plastic bags, fishing nets, and even a plastic drum.

It's not just big pieces of plastic that can be dangerous, though. In the ocean, sunlight and waves break down plastic into much smaller pieces. These tiny bits are called microplastics. They contain chemicals that can harm seabirds, turtles, and fish that swallow them.

Communities and businesses across the country are trying to tackle the plastic problem. Plastic grocery bags are banned in dozens of cities. Plus, many businesses, such as Hilton hotels and SeaWorld theme parks, are no longer giving out single-use plastic straws.

But it doesn't take an entire city or a big company to make a difference. Experts say we can all do our part by reducing the amount of plastic we use. They suggest we start by thinking more about the little decisions we make every day. So ask yourself: Do you really need that straw or plastic bag? --by Laura Anastasia

#### **Example from The Problem with Plastic**

Explain how the photo contributes to the understanding of the article. Support your answer with details from the article.

our toothbrush. Your headphones. A bottle of juice or a cereal bar wrapper. You may not realize it, but you probably use or touch plastic dozens of times each day.

You're not alone. For years, people have sipped from plastic straws and carried groceries in plastic bags. But nearly all the plastic we use gets thrown away. In fact, in the time it takes to read this sentence, Americans will have tossed more than

20,000 pound that waste is problems for That's why the U.S. are plastic usag efforts be er

Plastic as we know it was invented in the early 1900s. But for for most Americans, it didn't bot become a big part of everyday life until the 1950s. That's when sturdid

ones

I need to reread (text feature) more closely.

The (text feature) shows... I'll reread to confirm that is not stated anywhere in the print article.

lanonus ouried unde

dirt. Experts think this plastic may take centuries to decompose, or break down. But a lot of plastic trash never reaches landfills. Instead, it becomes litter on the street. Rain and wind carry that litter into storm drains or rivers that flow to the ocean.

When plastic waste ends up

deadly. Last year, a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain, Scientists found that the whale had eaten 64 pounds of plastic, including plastic bags, fishing d even a plastic drum. big pieces of e dangerous, an, sunlight wn plastic ieces. alled contain

arm

sh

in the ocean, the results can be

sinesses trying to oblem.

rocery bags are banned feities, Plus, many

parks, are no longer giving out single-use plastic straws.

how and Securority me

But it doesn't take an entire city or a big company to make a difference. Experts say we can all do our part by reducing the amount of plastic we use. They suggest we start by thinking more about the little decisions we make every day. So ask yourself: Do you really need that straw or plastic bag? -by Laura Anastasia





into storm drains or rivers that flow to the ocean.

When plastic waste ends up

the amount of plastic we use. They suggest we start by thinking more about the little decisions we make every day. So ask yourself: Do you really need that straw or plastic bag? -by Laura Anastasia

#### Example from The Problem with Plastic

Explain how the photo contributes to the understanding of the article. Support your answer with details from the article.

in the ocean, the results can be deadly. Last year, a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain. Scientists found that the whale had eaten 64 pounds of plastic, including plastic bags, fishing nets, and even a plastic drum.

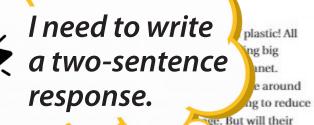
> es of igerous, sunlight

plastic

ces.

ed ntain

ish



people have sipped from plastic straws and carried groceries in plastic bags. But nearly all the plastic we use gets thrown away. In fact, in the time it takes to read this sentence, Americans will have tossed more than

Plastic as we know it was invented in the early 1900s. But for most Americans, it didn't become a big part of everyday life until the 1950s. That's when

# The article explains how plastic is hurting our environment.

### The photo reveals the enormity of the plastic floating in a body of water where animals live.

usinesses trying to lem. e banned s, many



landfills, buried under layers of dirt. Experts think this plastic may take centuries to decompose, or break down.

But a lot of plastic trash never reaches landfills. Instead, it becomes litter on the street. Rain and wind carry that litter into storm drains or rivers that flow to the ocean.

When plastic waste ends up

businesses, such as Hilton hotels and SeaWorld theme parks, are no longer giving out single-use plastic straws.

But it doesn't take an entire city or a big company to make a difference. Experts say we can all do our part by reducing the amount of plastic we use. They suggest we start by thinking more about the little decisions we make every day. So ask yourself: Do you really need that straw or plastic bag? ---by Laura Anastasia