

Name: _____

Main Ideas

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, “What is the author saying in this paragraph?” Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1) The last few years has seen many major U.S. fast food chains discontinuing or drastically scaling back their use of single-use plastic straws--of which it is estimated that 500 million are used every single day. This change is due to the urgent drive to reduce the amount of plastic debris in the world's oceans and its impact on marine life. The offending plastic tubes have been replaced by eco-friendly alternatives such as paper, stainless steel, wooden and silicone straw options.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.

There has been a recent push to eliminate the use of plastic straws and introduce viable eco-friendly alternatives in an effort to save marine life.

An appropriate title: The Way Forward with Eco-Friendly Straws

2) It is estimated that up to 12.7 million metric tons of plastic waste is dumped into the seas every year. Surprisingly most of this plastic ends up in a most unlikely region--the Arctic. With the oceans' and air currents tiny pieces of plastic debris, called microplastics, are inundating arctic air, water and is also becoming trapped in arctic ice floats. Studies have shown that the Arctic has a higher concentration of microplastics than even the largest Atlantic garbage patches. Airborne microplastics have even been found in the region's snowfall further worsening the ecological toxicity.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.

Much of the world's plastic waste ends up in the Arctic and can be found in the region's air, water and ice creating a toxic environment.

An appropriate title: Plastic in the Arctic

