CANADA C3
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TROIS CÔTES · UN VOYAGE

Educational Video Series

Ocean Education: Elementary Years

Title: Microplastics

URL: https://canadac3.ca/en/video/microplastics/

Overview: This 3-minute video explores microplastics in Canada's waters. Discuss with your students the causes of marine plastic litter in the ocean and its effects on ocean health and our own health.

Discussion Questions:

- In the video, Rhiannon discusses the causes and effects of microplastics. What are marineplastics? Where do they come from? What are some other forms of marine litter? Are these other forms of concern too?
- How can microplastics affect living things in the ocean? How can they affect people? How might they affect you?
- Were you aware of this issue? What were you thinking about while you watched this video?
- Check out the United Nation Environment Clean Seas Campaign and the fact posters. What do you think about this campaign? What things struck you from the fact posters?
- Do you think that you are connected to the microplastics problem? If yes, in what ways? If no, why?
- Do you think that you are part of the solutions to the microplastics problem? What actions could you take? Your school? Your community?

Read Bios and Learn More:

Rhiannon Moore is an artist and a scientist who joined Leg 12 of the Canada C3 Expedition to continue her research on microplastics under the direction of Dr. Peter Ross (see below). To learn more about microplastics from Rhiannon, check out her C3 Google Hangout on September 21, 2017 with Canadian classrooms.

Dr. Peter Ross is a toxicologist and a research scientist at the Vancouver Aquarium and Marine Science Centre. He is an expert on marine pollutants, and part of his work concerns plastic waste in the ocean. During the C3 voyage his team assembled bottom sediments from the intertidal zone to be analyzed for microplastics.

Extended Learning Resources:

1. Check out the Ocean of Plastic K-5 Unit created by Plastic Pollution Coalition in US.
2. Check out #PassOnPlastic – a citizen-led campaign to eliminate plastics.
3. Check out the travelling Ocean Plastics Lab, created in Germany, that was on display at Canadian Museum of Nature in August 2018.