

Resource Reviews

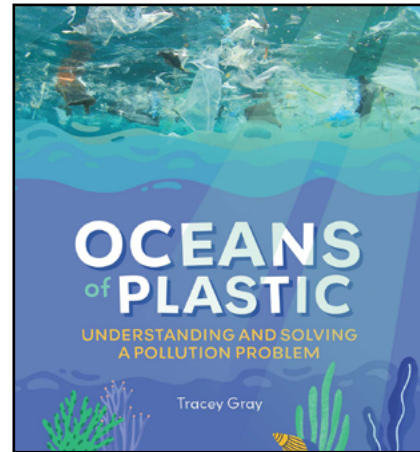
Oceans of Plastic: Understanding and Problem Solving a Pollution Problem

Written by: Tracey Gray.

Published By: CSIRO Publishing.

Information : <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7926/>

Audience: Ages 9–14.



Oceans of Plastic is a well-researched, informative text written by Tracey Gray. Tracey Gray is a marine scientist and environmental teacher who creates educational programs and resources. She has a passion for our world's oceans, living creatures and inspiring positive environmental change.

What I love most about this text is how it is so rich in science content and beautifully drawn images. I was impressed at how well ocean biology and chemistry have been incorporated in an engaging and informative way. The first chapter of the book, 'The role of our oceans', creates an engaging learning hook for readers and educators. This eye-opening chapter acknowledges how our oceans play a vital role in the survival of living things and our world, which is often overlooked in modern society and classrooms.

This book consists of 10 chapters, which are packed with a range of concepts relevant to ocean science. I particularly enjoyed the chapters 'Slow Motion Oceans' and 'Catching a Current'. I found them to be quite informative through the use of fun, interesting facts, such as how the 1992 rubber duck spill helped us to understand how ocean currents move — you may need to look that one up.

The remaining chapters shed light on oceanic plastics, the impact of plastic on our environment, and strategies for change. It was great to see that our global plastic problem was communicated in an encouraging and informative way, compared to other educational

resources that usually create gloomy energy in the classroom. The text puts forward positive strategies that anybody can partake in to do their part in helping to alleviate the plastic pollution problem.

Whilst the text is thorough in its information, I feel that the content is pitched for a higher age group. Students would require some fundamental knowledge of ocean science before engaging in the text. For primary students, I would recommend studying the book in parts, paired with the material in the downloadable CSIRO Teacher Notes. The Teacher Notes suggest some great discussion points and activities to engage primary learners of all abilities. I also love the variety of hands-on experiments provided. However, I believe this text would be perfect for Year 7 and 8 science students as a literacy study resource. The content nicely complements plenty of the Living World Syllabus concepts and would be a great resource to extend student learning in the area of ocean science. This may even encourage students to pursue marine studies in Stage 5.

Overall, the book is a highly informative, well-presented text which incorporates a wealth of scientific knowledge that will be successful in opening the eyes of both students and educators to our current plastic dilemma. I look forward to utilising this resource in my classroom for some fantastic plastic learning.

Miss Katherine Muscat

Secondary Science Teacher, Sydney.