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Marine Policy Project

**The Great Pacific Patch**

We have been taught from an early age to not litter and throw away our trash to prevent it from going into the ocean. Are people following through with this lesson? Is it even enough to prevent pollution? These are just some of the few questions that arise when we think of the Great Pacific Patch. When I first read about this phenomenon, I could not actually believe it. It took me some time to wrap my head around this and accept the truth. The Great Pacific Patch is a collection of trash and plastics that is floating between Hawaii and California. The unbelievable size of this trash dump is twice the size of the state of Texas! The purpose of this project is to find out how this could have happened, its effect on the environment and ecology, solving this crisis, and finally ways to prevent this from happening.

It is amazing that this could have happened. For trash to compile and build up, where it is an island is unimaginable. Finding out how this began is one of the first steps in solving this huge problem. What could be the cause for this environmental disaster? What factors lead to the collection of trash to pile up? There are answers we must first seek to help solve the problem.

Next, we must figure out what is the effect it has to the environment and as well as the ecology of the area. A massive trash build-up like this could not be healthy for the ocean and the marine life that inhabits these areas. Finding out the effect will help us create awareness and be able to warn humanity of this growing crisis.

Also, we will be studying what are some ways we are currently trying to solve this problem. Is the Great Pacific Patch fixable or has it grown so big that all hope is lost. This is an environmental disaster that we must fix for the sake of the planet and all that lives within it.

Finally, we must find ways to prevent this from happening in the future. Is the government doing enough to prevent pollution on this magnitude from happening? This is an important issue and must be preventable from worst catastrophe from happening.

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