

Tasks

1. Read aloud the news and record your reading. Be sure you can pronounce every word correctly.
2. List as many phrases as possible, together with the Chinese equivalents.

Used masks and gloves are showing up on beaches and in oceans (2)

By Parija Kavilanz, CNN Business

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Flowing from land into the ocean /, sædi'eigəv/

For the past eight years, San Diego resident and teacher Janis Jones has voluntarily given her time to picking up plastic waste – bags, utensils, straws, styrofoam takeout containers – from her local beach.

"I am an obsessive beach cleaner," said Jones. But when the fast spread of Covid-19 forced her area beaches to close in March, the committed conservationist tweaked her approach.

"I began walking around my neighborhood instead," she said. At first it was for exercise. "I was trapped in a house all day working from home. So I got out to do a four to five mile walk." En route, Jones started noticing discarded gloves and masks on the roadside, in parking lots and in creeks.

"Most of these are the single use varieties," she said. When she could, she would pick them up and dispose of them properly. Jones said the volume of PPE waste has grown significantly since April and she decided to document it by photographing each mask and glove she found.

"By now the number is over 1,000," she said. "I've been able to go to the beach a couple of times and found gloves there, too." Her fear is that the littered mask and gloves will eventually end up in the ocean.

In fact, the Coastal Clean Up day event in the nearby beaches last month surfaced 413 latex gloves and more than 700 single-use surgical masks from San Diego beaches.

"As much as 80% of plastic waste in oceans comes from land," said Chad Nelsen, CEO of the Surfrider Foundation, a California-based nonprofit focused on protecting oceans and beaches. "Every mask or glove that you see on the street that's not picked up will most likely go into a storm drain, into a river then into the ocean."

Nelsen said the safest place for used single-use masks and gloves to end up is in landfills.

"Also, people may not realize that these blue masks and gloves have plastic in them," said Nelsen. "So what we're using just for a couple of minutes can last on Earth for thousands of years. It won't biodegrade. When it does decompose into microplastics, it will be digested by animals on land and my marine wildlife."

Said Nelsen, "We're just scratching the surface of this threat. If we are not concerned or careful, it could become a big setback and a disastrous situation for oceans."

I'd like to give some suggestions. Actually there are some fairy tales definitely for adults. And these tales are full of reality significance. These fairy tales do not always have happy endings. But they can bring us in-depth insights into our society. Like Roald Dahl's fantastic MS fox. So maybe our point of view should not only focus on children's fairy tale. It can be more comprehensive.