

Aiesha Versoza

For my homework assignment I created a board game for all ages. I only had enough time to make 3 pieces for 3 players. The game pieces are made out of egg cartons.

The object of the game is to save the whale at the end.

There is 1 dice to roll and depending on where you land on the board, you lose a turn, move a certain amount of spaces, or pick a card. Danger awaits you as you roll the dice! You might get caught in the valley of plastic bottle caps, stuck in an oil spill, or caught in a fish net. If you do, you could lose a turn.

Each card that is drawn can be a trivia question on pollution in the ocean or could cause you to go back to start. Whoever reaches the finish line first wins! BUT you have to be careful when saving the whale because there is evil plastic wrapping paper and utensils that can keep you from getting the whale to safety!

The playing board is mainly composed of materials that I found littered around the city. The only thing that is not recycled is the piece of paper that I drew the board game upon.

I decided to focus my project on plastics in the ocean. In my opinion, plastic is a major problem that is polluting our oceans. Whether it is plastic bags, plastic bottles, or the plastic rings around cans. Plastic in general can cause major damage not only to the ocean, but also the marine life. For example, birds and other creatures of the ocean are ingesting the plastic which can ultimately cause death. Plastic is not biodegradable so, it just floats around on the main land and eventually into the ocean for long periods of time.

« Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and die from internal blockages. Seals and sea lions starve after being muzzled by six-pack rings or entangled by nets. »(Bohle)

Here are some statistics that I found on plastic :

« \*Six-pack holders will not decompose for 400 years.

\* Each square mile of ocean surface off the North East coast of the U.S. has more than 46,000 pieces of plastic floating

\*100,000 marine mammals and 2 million sea birds die every year after ingesting or being caught in plastic debris

\*Adding ingredients to plastics that would hasten decomposition would add 5-7% to costs, but this price increase is unacceptable to industries, » according to Bob Bohle in his report on *The Effects of Ocean Pollution on Marine Mammals*. There are ways that can reduce the amount of plastic usage, but it seems that corporations do not want to spend the money to keep our planet clean.

Americans only recycle about 5% of the 10.5 million tons of plastic waste that is generated each year. That means nearly every piece of plastic made still exists today !

Already, some stores are switching over from plastic to paper to help out the enviroment, but it is not enough. Everyone needs to do their share to make sure that we are keeping plastics or pollution in general out of our oceans. We as Americans need to be more concious of what we are doing with our waste to help keep our planet clean, healthy, and stable for our future generations !