

# OCEAN TRASH





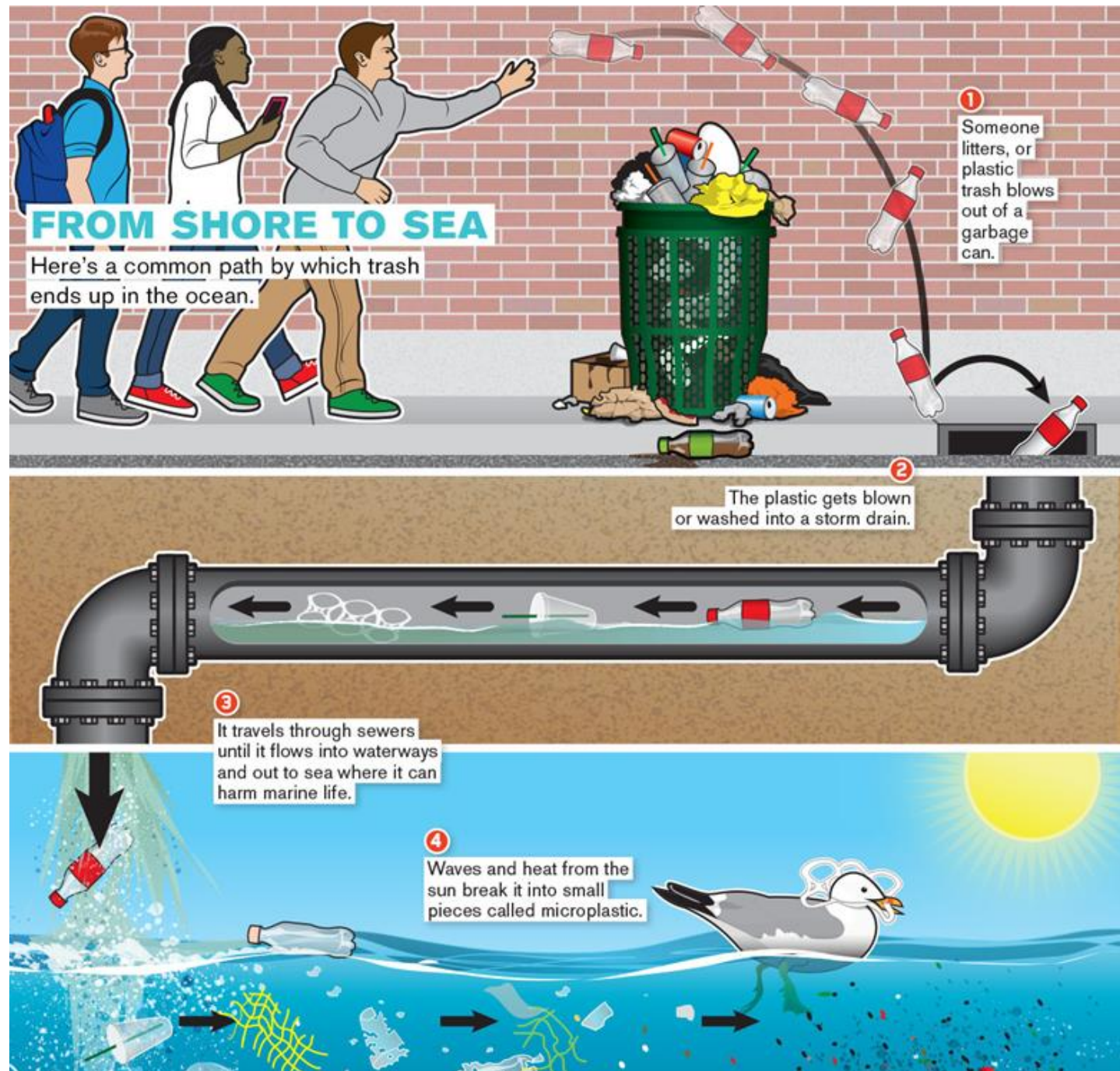
The Des Plaines River flows into the Illinois River, which flows into the Mississippi River.



The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. From there, any trash or polluted materials that flowed from these rivers gets exposed to the oceans.



# HOW TRASH GETS ACCUMULATED IN THE OCEAN (MARINE DEBRIS)

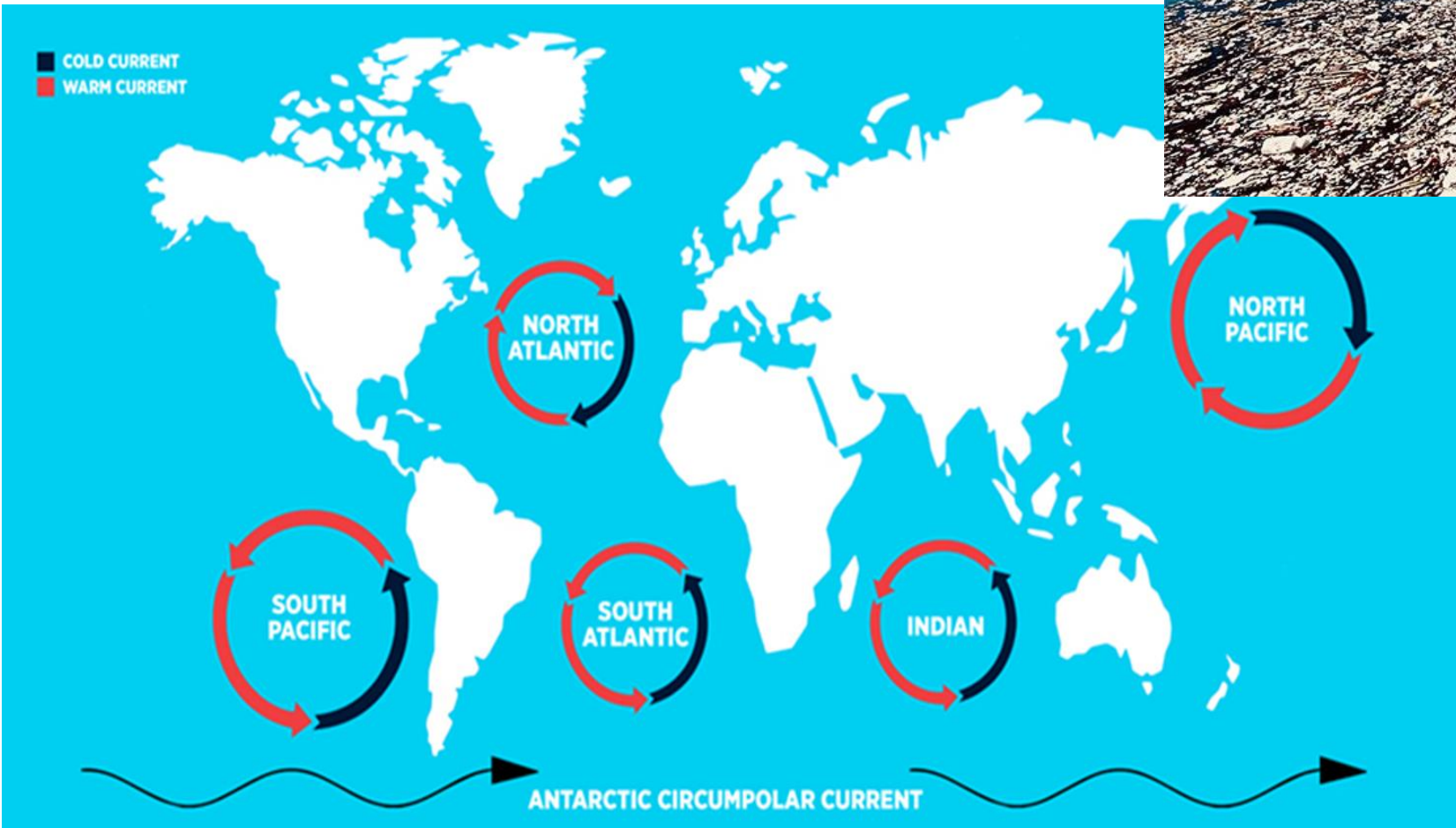




These circular diagrams are called “gyres”. Gyres are currents of water that flow into a circle. Out in the middle of the ocean, these currents “trap” garbage, and that is why there are these giant patches of garbage in the middle of the ocean.



A giant garbage patch in the ocean.





An underwater photograph showing a vast amount of plastic debris floating in the water. The debris includes small, colorful fragments and larger, tangled pieces of plastic. The water is a deep blue color, and the scene is illuminated from above, creating a slightly hazy atmosphere.

THERE ARE 5.25 TRILLION PIECES OF PLASTIC DEBRIS IN THE OCEAN

THERE ARE 269,000 TONS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE

THERE ARE FOUR BILLION PLASTIC MICROFIBERS PER SQUARE KILOMETER

LITTERING THE DEEP SEA



# TYPES OF MARINE DEBRIS



Marine Debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of into the marine environment or Great Lakes (NOAA).

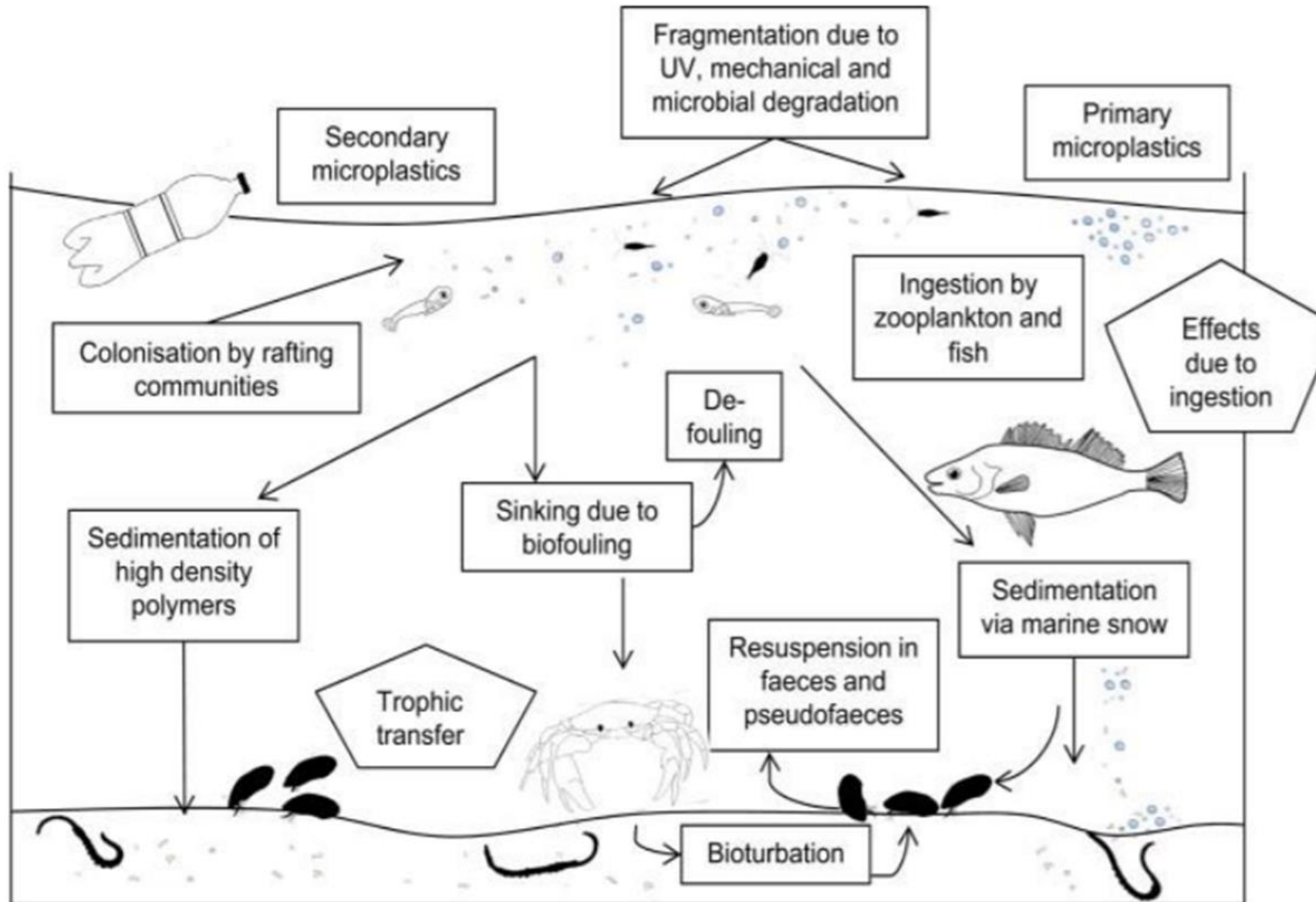


# MARINE TRASH AND ITS EFFECT ON TROPHIC LEVELS





# How Plastics Break Down and Affect the Marine Food Web



Plastics do not fully decompose in the environment. But they do break down in smaller pieces. These smaller pieces are called microplastics, and they can get ingested by fish or other marine life. This can not only cause the fish to become sick and affect their life, but it can also affect our lives too. The fish we eat could have traces of these microplastics in them as well, which can affect our diets and well being.



What you can do to help?



DO NOT  
LITTER!!



Pick up Trash  
when you can! It  
helps the  
environment!





Try to use reusable items when possible, this will reduce the amount of garbage that can get in the ocean

PLASTIC IS  
**NOT** FANTASTIC



**TAKE ACTION!** Here are ten things you can do to help end the Throwaway Lifestyle: **TAKE THE PLEDGE** to do your part — put a check next to the actions that you pledge to take. For more information visit: [www.rethinkdisposable.org](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org)

- |                                                                                       |                                                                                                      |                                                                             |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 1</b><br>Bring your own shopping bag.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 6</b><br>Bring your own cup.             |    |
|    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 2</b><br>Reduce the use of plastic bags for produce & bulk items. | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 7</b><br>Slow down and dine in.          |    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 3</b><br>Bring your own food container and utensils.              | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 8</b><br>Say no to disposable straws.    |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 4</b><br>Carry a reusable water bottle.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 9</b><br>Avoid heavily packaged foods.   |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 5</b><br>Pack a waste-free lunch.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action 10</b><br>Share these tips with friends! |  |



## Got Any Questions?

Please contact:

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For more information please visit:

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