**Microplastics: Guiding Questions**

**Introduction:**

1. Beforelooking into the resources, **discuss** as a group:

* Have you heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
* What do you think it looks like?
* How does plastic pollution affect us?

1. **Resources** that may be helpful:

* “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch” (an introduction)
* “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch Isn’t What You Think it Is” (an article based on research -- highlighted portions may be most helpful).
* “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch Floats On” graphic

**Consider** these questions:

* How are ecosystems are affected?
* What are these garbage patches composed of?
* Did any answers from your prior discussion change?
* How do you feel about plastic pollution?
* Do microplastics concern you? Why or why not?

1. **Discuss** the following question: Where does most of this plastic come from?

It may be helpful to look at the map at this link: <https://theoceancleanup.com/sources/>

If you can’t access it, think about how trash can physically enter an ocean.

**Recycled Plastic Clothing:**

1. **Review** the article “Can Recycled Plastic Clothing do More Harm than Good?”

Questions to consider:

* Is buying recycled polyester worth it knowing how plastics affect oceans?
* Do you think the benefits of recycling outweigh the costs? Why or why not?
* Can we find a solution to this? Think outside of what is posed by the article.
* In the end, would you buy such clothing?

As a group, try to reach a consensus on how microplastic pollution from clothing should be addressed.