

# Ocean Plastics: Frequently Asked Questions

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## Introduction to Material

My research concerns the concentrations and types of plastic pollution on ocean habitats and life, focusing specifically on microbeads, microplastics, and what has caused them to be present in such an abundance. Microplastics are a category of plastics measuring less than .5mm and are then separated into two distinct categories. Primary microplastics, which include microbeads, are microplastics that were manufactured at that size for a specific reason. Secondary microplastics are small pieces that have degraded from larger pieces of plastic, called macroplastics. Microbeads are most commonly found in the cosmetics industry.

## Purpose

The reason I wanted to pursue this research was to better inform the public about plastic waste. While doing some preliminary research on news and media sights, I realized that they all had different ideas about the effects and prevalence of plastic in marine regions. After doing some deeper and more scholarly research, I had a more accurate understanding of the issue from beginning to end. With the surge in plastic-based sanctions, I felt that people could benefit from having this information as it could answer some of their questions.

## Significance

My project involved being interviewed by my sister about my research. I allowed her to read all of my technical research and asked her to form questions based on the reading. Our interview allowed me to answer some of the commonly asked questions I ran into during my research and elaborate on important terms and events. I hope to use this research to further educate people about plastic and its effects on marine habitats.

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