

Name: _____

Cause and Effect

Tell Me Why

Directions: Read the Scholastic News Online article about marine garbage (“Oceans of Trash”). Then, look at the lists of causes and effects below. Use what you have learned to match each cause to an effect. Read all of the choices carefully before you select an answer.

CAUSES	EFFECTS
1. Plastic takes up to 1,000 years to break down. _____	a) Turtles and seals mistake them for jellyfish.
2. Ocean garbage patches tend to be in remote areas. _____	b) Trash gets swirled into giant patches.
3. Some people use reusable grocery bags and water bottles. _____	c) People rarely see ocean garbage patches.
4. Plastic bags float in the ocean. _____	d) They kept 6.8 million pounds of trash from ending up in the ocean in 2008.
5. Ocean currents are very strong. _____	e) River trash can end up in the ocean.
6. Volunteers help clean up the world’s beaches. _____	f) Plastic in the ocean sticks around for a long time.
7. Trash washes up on beaches. _____	g) Less plastic waste is created in the first place.
8. Many rivers connect with the ocean. _____	h) Beaches are dirty, and humans can get sick.

Go Further! Choose a cause-effect pair from the activity above. Write a sentence that joins the cause to the effect. Remember, a cause can be named at the beginning or the end of a sentence. Try using a connecting word like so, because, or since.
