



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

to strengthen teaching in public schools®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2008 Volume VII: Urban Environmental Quality and Human Health: Conceiving a Sustainable Future

Effects of Plastics on Top Predators' Health

Guide for Curriculum Unit 08.07.11, published September 2008

by Francisca R. Sorensen

Most reports indicate that nearly 100 billion pounds of plastic are produced in the United States each year. They are found in everything from the packaging of food and beverages to furniture, toys; medical devices, building products, electrical wiring and vehicles. Mention is made to their durability and effects on the environment as well as the consequences that two of the compounds found in plastics: Diethylhexylphtalate (DEHP) and bisphenol A (BPA) have on normal endocrine systems in different species of animals. A number of animal case studies are presented here along with the substantiating findings that point to the deleterious effects that the aforementioned compounds have had on them. This short analysis is designed to create awareness in teachers in the hope that the information will reach their students and their parents. Perhaps together we will be able to assist in finding ways to combat the growing threat to the earth's biota.

(Developed for Science and Social Studies, grade 2; recommended for Science and Social Studies, grades 2-5)

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use