

Careers from A to Z: Melanie The Marine Biologist

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WHQ IS MELANIE?



Melanie is a **marine biologist**. A marine biologist is someone who studies all types of sea life. Marine biologists can learn about large ocean animals, like whales, or tiny organisms, like plankton. Marine biologists also learn about how humans affect animals, like when an oil spill happens. An oil spill is when a large amount oil leaks into the ocean. Oil spills harm animals and plants and have longlasting effects.

Some marine biologists, like Melanie, work on boats or submarines where they research animals and how water pollution affects them.

WHAT IS MARINE POLLUTION?

Marine pollution occurs when harmful waste enters the ocean. Harmful waste could be chemicals, oil, or trash. When waste goes into the ocean, it is very dangerous for animals, plants, and the water. Sea animals may eat pieces of plastic or drink ocean water that has oil in it. If a small organism eats the waste and then enters into the food chain, the waste may end up in the fish people eat! Oil is a pollutant that greatly impacts marine life. Many birds and other marine animals swallow oil which poisons them. Oil can also harm fur and feathers on marine animals, like sea otters and seagulls. Marine biologists work on finding solutions to help prevent and clean up marine pollution.

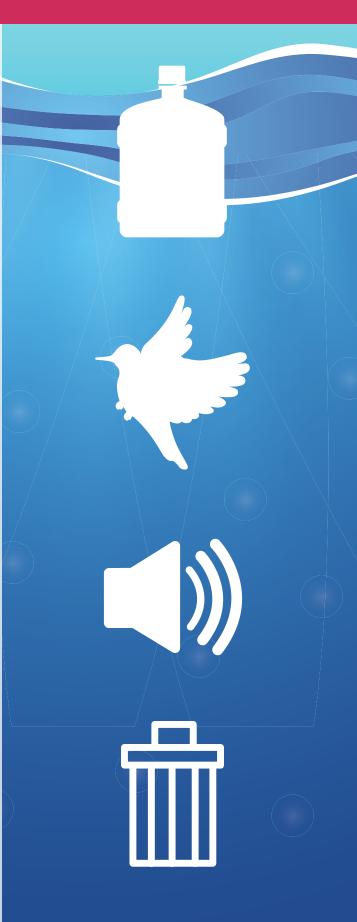
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that plastic is the most common pollutant found in oceans? Thousands of pounds of plastics like food wrappers, water bottles, bottle caps, and straws enter the ocean every month.

Did you know ocean pollutants kill more than one million sea birds each year?

Did you know noise pollution, like horns, impact marine life? Noise from large ships, airplanes, and train horns can cause distress in marine animals and make it difficult for them to communicate with each other.

Did you know you can help prevent marine pollution? Always pick up your trash, don't put grease down the kitchen drain, and reduce your plastic use!



BE A MARINE BIOLOGIST!

Ocean trash cans are a new way of helping clean up marine pollution. So far, marine biologists have invented a trash can that can float in the water and collect trash. Your job is to design a new type of ocean trash can that cleans up ocean pollution.

Design your own ocean trash can below. Your ocean trash can must do the following:

- Separate oil from water if there is an oil spill.
- Collect large and small pieces of trash,
- Have a color and shape that will not scare animals, and
- Have a way to find can's location to report back to land.