**The Ocean.**

**Today, as every day, 250 tonnes of plastic waste will enter the Mediterranean, this is fraction of the 730 tonnes of plastic that go into the Med. Around the coast of the Med farmers use huge amounts of plastic covering to make up the greenhouses that they need to produce all the fruit and veg that goes to the EU, but instead of recycling the vast plastic coverings, they dump into the sea or in leave them by the side of the road where they end up in the ocean.**

**Simon Reeve, environmentalist and presenter, has fished on the boats in the Med that are trying to counteract this kind of pollution. The fishermen are being used to actually fish for the plastic waste that goes into the sea. They pick up tonnes of the plastic waste and throw the fish back, as a part of an environmental experiment that is combating the pollution.**

**The Tara** **Ocean Foundation have researched into the worlds oceans and found the Med has the highest density of plastic in the world. Cristina Fossi, research scientist, is sampling krill the microorganism eaten in vast amounts by whales. She has found that the plastic additives eaten by fish are released in the stomach and produce a toxic effect the microorganism have found their way into all marine life affecting the numbers of dolphins and other marine species.**

**This is a global problem as marine reserves are being depleted all over the world- do your bit PICK UP PLASTIC.**

**Remove items from the beach, take home and recycle, and we will combat pollution together.**

**Use these guiding questions to talk about this extract with someone at home or a friend:**

1. **Do you like to eat fish? You may hate fish but lots of people rely on fishing for their income and for feeding their families.**
2. **Can you think of other ways we can help to lessen the use of plastics?**
3. **Could you imagine an ocean with no marine life at all?**
4. **Why is there so much plastic used today, much more than in previous years?**
5. **Do you ever walk along the beach and think why there is so much pollution in such a beautiful setting**