

May 21 2019

Dear Jacques Cousteau,

I admire you, and all your amazing knowledge about the ocean, and other bodies of water. I am Albert Zhang, from Slingerlands Elementary, Delmar, New York, in the USA. I am also fascinated about the ocean, and the animals that live there. It is also amazing how you lived underwater in your 3 conshefts.

In Slingerlands Elementary school, we have been studying several exciting STEM units! Water Watchers ties in with cleaning up garbage in our oceans. It talks about water value, water quality, and water conservation.

There is a fellow named Boyan Slat who lives in the Netherlands. He is starting a company called "The Ocean Cleanup." They are trying to clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, between the American island of Hawaii and California. The patch's currents spin round and round, pushing the garbage with in it round and round also. WHen you put a physical barrier or a net in the way of the current, Boyan Slat claims, the current of water would push the garbage, right into the net.

But, skeptic Nick Malice says "the risk is greater than the benefit." Still, Boyan Slat has perseverance, and is determined to carry out his plan.

Boyan Slat is concerned about water contamination, and in our classroom, we learned that three there are 3 main types of contamination- biologicals, and microbes, such as germs and bacteria, can pollute our water, physicals, such as debris and salts, can also be harmful to humans.

And lastly, chemicals. Chemicals, such as fertilizer, can wash out of our yards, when rain comes and eventually make its way into lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, and even the ocean.

Physical contamination includes garbage, made out of plastic, a solid made of a substance known as acid, and leftover parts of oil. It can be useful, but it can also be highly harmful to our environment. In our STEM module, “Mushroom Maestros,” we learned how you can replace a very harmful plastic, styrofoam, made from polystyrene, with the root structure of a mushroom, called mycelium.

In another unit, “Contagion Crushers,” we learned about how bacteria, and other germs, can make you very sick, for example, when you drink dirty, contaminated, or polluted water.

In conclusion, I think that you are a genius, to figure out that humans can live underwater, to be captain of a ship, and be an excellent swimmer and diver.

From your true supporter,

Albert Zhang

