

1. Read the text and fill in the appropriate articles: *a/ an* or *the*. If there is no article, mark the gap with *X*.

A Planet Poisoned by Plastic

»From Hawaiian beaches to (1) _____ coast of (2) _____ Britain, we're paying a lethal price for our throwaway society« says Simon Reeve.

Isolated in the middle of (3) _____ vast Pacific Ocean, distance alone should protect Hawaii's special landscape and turquoise sea from the environmental problems that the rest of (4) _____ planet is facing.

When Simon Reeve arrived in (5) _____ Hawaii, he was shocked to discover beaches covered in (6) _____ plastic rubbish washed up from around the world. The volunteers were doing their best to remove (7) _____ tons of garbage, but as soon as it was cleaned, the waves dumped another mountain of (8) _____ rubbish.

Another shock came when Simon and (9) _____ volunteers started digging in the sand. Plastic doesn't biodegrade. Instead, it breaks down into even smaller pieces. Among (10) _____ grains of sand were billions of tiny plastic flecks, which the pounding of (11) _____ sea was reducing in size. As Simon dug through the plastic, he realised that the sandy beach was becoming (12) _____ plastic beach.

Since 1994, plastic litter has become (13) _____ even bigger problem. The plastic we see on the beaches is just (14) _____ small part of the plastic waste that is destroying (15) _____ oceans. All the plastic ever created is still out there in the environment in (16) _____ some form.

Scientists believe that sea currents have created five vast garbage patches in our oceans. There is (17) _____ huge one in (18) _____ North Atlantic with up to 520,000 bits of rubbish per square mile. This is (19) _____ international problem for which we are all responsible.

So plastic is ruining our beaches, the oceans and poisoning (20) _____ our food chain. (21) _____ consequences will likely be devastating. This is (22) _____ environmental emergency.