



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund: Marine Debris Keiki Education and Outreach (MDKEO) Program

VOCABULARY SHEET

O-H-E-C-K!	An acronym that describes the protocol for the scientific process: Observation, Hypothesis, Experiment, Conclusion, Knowledge.
3 R's	Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
Ahupua'a	A variable section of land, that can stretch from the mountain ridges to the coral reef system. Usually follows natural boundaries, like mountain ridges or streams. Each ahupua'a has the necessary foods and materials for 'ohana (families) to live.
Biodegrade	The process by which a substance or an object that came directly from a living thing is broken down, or decomposed, by living things (bacteria and invertebrates) and is turned back into a usable product.
Biologist	A scientist who focuses on and studies living organisms, including plants and animals.
Bolus	A package of hard parts that an albatross chick must regurgitate before it can fledge.
Category	A class or division of people or things regarded as having particular shared characteristics.
Fledge	For all flying animals (birds, bats) when they fly for the first time.
Buoyancy	The ability to float in water.
Conclusion	The solution or answer to a problem. The conclusion is what the scientist has learned about the problem through experimentation.
Data	Facts or information, usually used to calculate, analyze, or plan something. Pieces of information that a scientist will gather and look at. Data consists of information collected through research, experiments, and observations. Conclusions can be made based on data.
Derelict Fishing Gear (DFG)	Fishing gear that has been lost or abandoned. This material is capable of catching marine life as it continues to float throughout the water column. It may also mother sensitive habitats such as coral reefs.

	Examples include nets, crab pots, lobster traps, coils, and monofilament fishing line.
Disposable	Describes a product that is designed to be used once and then thrown away.
Ecosystem	A natural community composed of biotic (living) creatures that live in connection with each other and abiotic (non-living) parts like sun, wind, water, sand.
Endangered	When a species is at risk of extinction.
Entanglement	The looping of a piece of debris around part of an animal's body. Entanglement may impair swimming and feeding, cause suffocation, decrease ability to elude predators, and cause open wounds.
Experiment	A test or trial used to gain knowledge or to test a hypothesis or theory.
Gyre	is a system of circular ocean currents formed by the Earth's wind patterns and the forces created by the rotation of the planet.
Hitch-hiker	When something catches a ride; when marine life recruits onto marine debris, the debris becomes a vessel for transporting potentially invasive species to geographic locations not in its normal distribution.
Honu	Hawaiian name for a green sea turtle.
Honu'ea	Hawaiian name for the endangered hawksbill sea turtle, also called an 'ea in some regions.
Hypothesis	A reasonable or educated guess. Hypotheses are based on observations, research, and what is already known about the subject.
Ingestion	The consumption/eating of a piece of debris by an animal. Ingestion may cause blockages in the digestive tract, suffocation, or a false fullness that can lead to malnutrition or starvation.
Invasive	an organism (plant, animal, fungus, or bacterium) that is not native and has negative effects on our economy, our environment, or our health
Knowledge	facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.
Litter/trash/rubbish	Trash, wastepaper, or garbage lying scattered about.
Makai	Hawaiian for towards the ocean, or ocean-side.
Marine Biologist	A scientist who focuses on and studies living organism, including plants and animals found in the ocean environment.
Marine Debris	Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment.
Marine	Of, found in or produced by the ocean.
Mauka	Hawaiian for towards the mountain, or mountain-side.
Microplastics	small plastic particles in the environment that are generally between 1 and 5 mm. They can come from a variety of sources, including cosmetics, clothing, and industrial processes.

Mōiī	Hawaiian name for the Laysan Albatross bird.
Nurdle	A small, round pellet that is produced as the raw form plastic. Resin pellets are melted down and used to form plastic products. The pellets resemble fish eggs and can be mistaken for food by marine animals and sea birds.
Photodegrade	The process by which a substance or object is broken down via sunlight.
Plastics	A synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, PVC, nylon, etc., that can be molded into shape while soft and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form.
Recycling	The process of converting waste into a reusable material.
Scientific Method	in short, is a way to ask and answer scientific questions by making observations and doing experiments. The scientific method can be simplified into a series of steps and explained via the acronym "OHECK!".
Singled-use Plastic	Any plastic items such as drink bottles, plastic wrap, disposable utensils, plastic bags, or food packaging materials that are designed to be used once and then disposed of / discarded.
Storm Drain	A pipe system which includes grates, gutters, underground pipes, streams, or open channels designed to transport rain from developed areas to a body of water (the ocean in Hawai'i).
Stormwater Runoff	The water that flows along streets or along the ground as a result of a storm.
Stormwater	Runoff in the storm drain system.
Sort	A category of things or people having some common feature; a type
Trash	Discarded materials; garbage or waste.