

MICROPLASTICS WITH PROF JAY BRANDES AND DODIE SANDERS

TALKING POINTS

1. How do the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) define microplastics? (See Introduction to article)
2. How do the UGA Skidaway team collect their water samples for study and analysis? (See *How is the amount of microplastics in water measured?*)
3. How do the researchers measure the amount of microplastics in water? (See *How is the amount of microplastics in water measured?*)
4. What are some of the plastics that you might find listed in your clothing labels? (See *How do microplastics get into the water system?*)
5. What activities can you perform to help with the problem with microplastics? (See *How can we reduce the amount of microplastics in the environment?*)
6. Which natural fibre textiles can you use for your clothing and bedding to help reduce use of microplastics? (See *How can we reduce the amount of microplastics in the environment?*)
7. What is citizen science? (See *About Citizen Science*)
8. Why are citizen scientists so important? (See *About Citizen Science*)

CITIZEN SCIENCE MICROPLASTICS PROJECTS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN!

- The Big Microplastic Survey is a collaborative citizen science project being undertaken by UK registered charity, Just One Ocean and the University of Portsmouth. It began in July 2018 and is expected to continue for years to come. The project is all about collecting data that scientists can use and the more they get the better, so feel free to complete as many surveys as you can, whenever it is convenient.
- The Marine Debris Tracker is an app that enables you to easily report where you find marine debris or litter anywhere in the world and then prevent it from impacting our oceans. The app was created in 2010 from a partnership between the NOAA Marine Debris Program and the Southeast Atlantic Marine Debris Initiative (SEA-MDI), located within the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia. You can download it from the Apple App Store or get the Android App on Google Play, but be sure to check with an adult before you do.
- Adventure Scientists have amassed one of the largest and most diverse global microplastic pollution datasets in the world. The information they gather is being used by businesses, governments and individuals to limit plastic waste and you can get involved. You can request a microplastics toolkit which will help you make a real contribution to the important work that they do.

