Name:

Date:

Washing Away

Most people have heard about the large number of plastic bottles and bags that are floating around in the world's oceans, harming fish and other animals. Mark Browne, an environmental researcher, examined the types of plastic that had washed up on various beaches around the world. He was surprised to find large amounts of plastic, such as polyester and acrylic, which are not used to make plastic bottles or bags. From this, he knew that this plastic waste must be (24).

Since polyester and acrylic are found in many types of clothing, Browne thought that small plastic fibers were probably being washed off people's clothes and flowing through the sewer system to the ocean. Wanting to solve this problem, Browne talked to a number of clothing companies. He recommended that they make clothes that were stronger and less likely to lose plastic fibers. However, many of these companies (25) was the problem. Instead, they said that these plastics could be coming from many other things, such as blankets, rugs or even paint.

Unwilling to give up, Browne found an engineer named Blair Jollimore. Jollimore had noticed that plastic fibers from his washing machine had been causing a problem with his water pipes at home. He was able to solve this problem by inventing a device that stops the plastic from leaving his washing machine. Browne encouraged Jollimore to sell this invention to large companies so that they could reduce the amount of plastic waste getting into the sewer system. (26), Browne hopes that the amount of plastic waste in the ocean will eventually decrease.

24. a. difficult to remove
b. coming from somewhere else
c. more dangerous than before
d. spreading to new places

25. a. misunderstood that acrylic
b. accepted that polyester
c. suggested that plastic
d. denied that clothing

26. a. In this way
b. Rather
c. Even so
d. At first

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