

# Marine Debris Story, Part I

## Student Worksheet

*For this activity, pick ONE type of marine debris item that is found on the beach. Use these prompts to organize your initial thoughts about the item and the story of how it ended up on the beach.*

Name of the Item: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Description of the material**

Describe, sketch and label a picture of the material.

**2. Initial ideas about the marine debris item's origin**

Where do you think the item came from?

What evidence leads you to this conclusion?

How do you think the material ended up in the marine environment?

What questions do you have about the item?

### 3. Initial ideas about this item's Life Cycle

Objects have a lifespan that begins with the extraction of raw materials and ends with final disposal. Think of this like the item's "life story". Typical phases of a life cycle include:

1. Raw Material Extraction
2. Manufacturing & Processing
3. Transportation
4. Retail and Usage
5. Waste Disposal

The story of an item may be **linear**, or it may be **cyclical** for at least a time if materials can be reused, recycled or otherwise reintroduced back into the system.

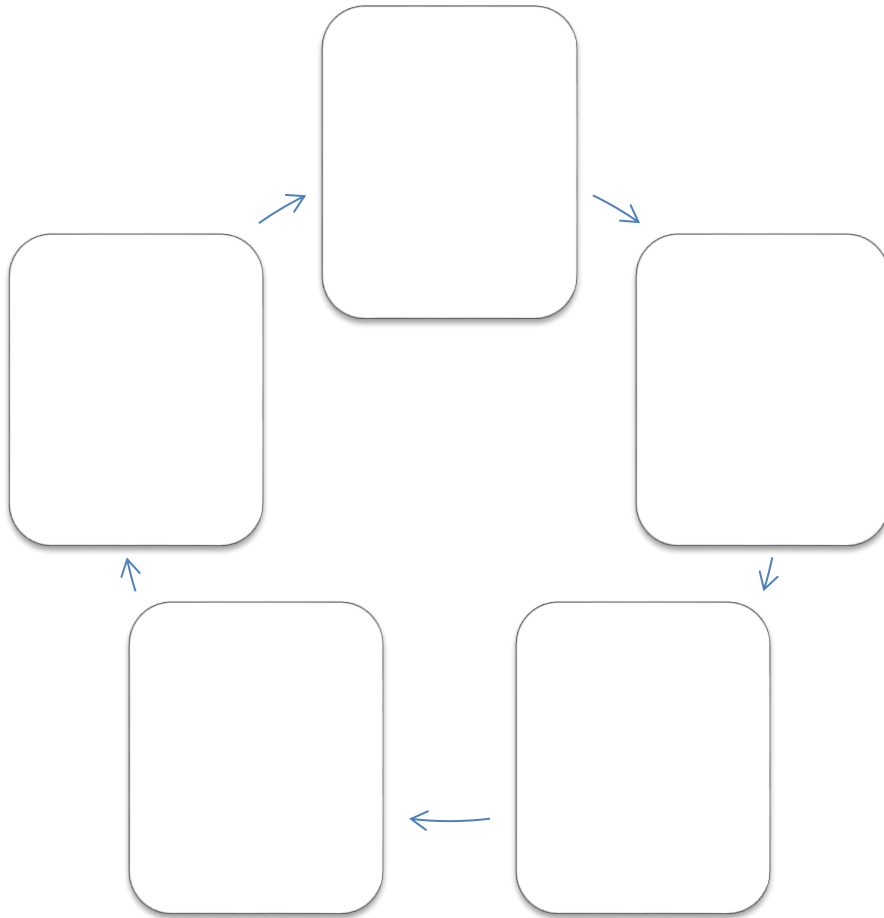
Now turn to your marine debris item of focus. What do you think the life cycle of this item is typically like? Draw and label a life cycle for your marine debris that includes the five phases listed above, as well as other phases if you think they might apply, including how your item of marine debris may have escaped into the environment.

Which type of life cycle applies to your item, and why?

Later in the unit, you will have a chance to revise and add to your ideas.

## Diagram of the Life Story for a Marine Debris Item

Use the diagram below to describe your story in the form of a life **CYCLE**...



...or as a **LINEAR** life story:

