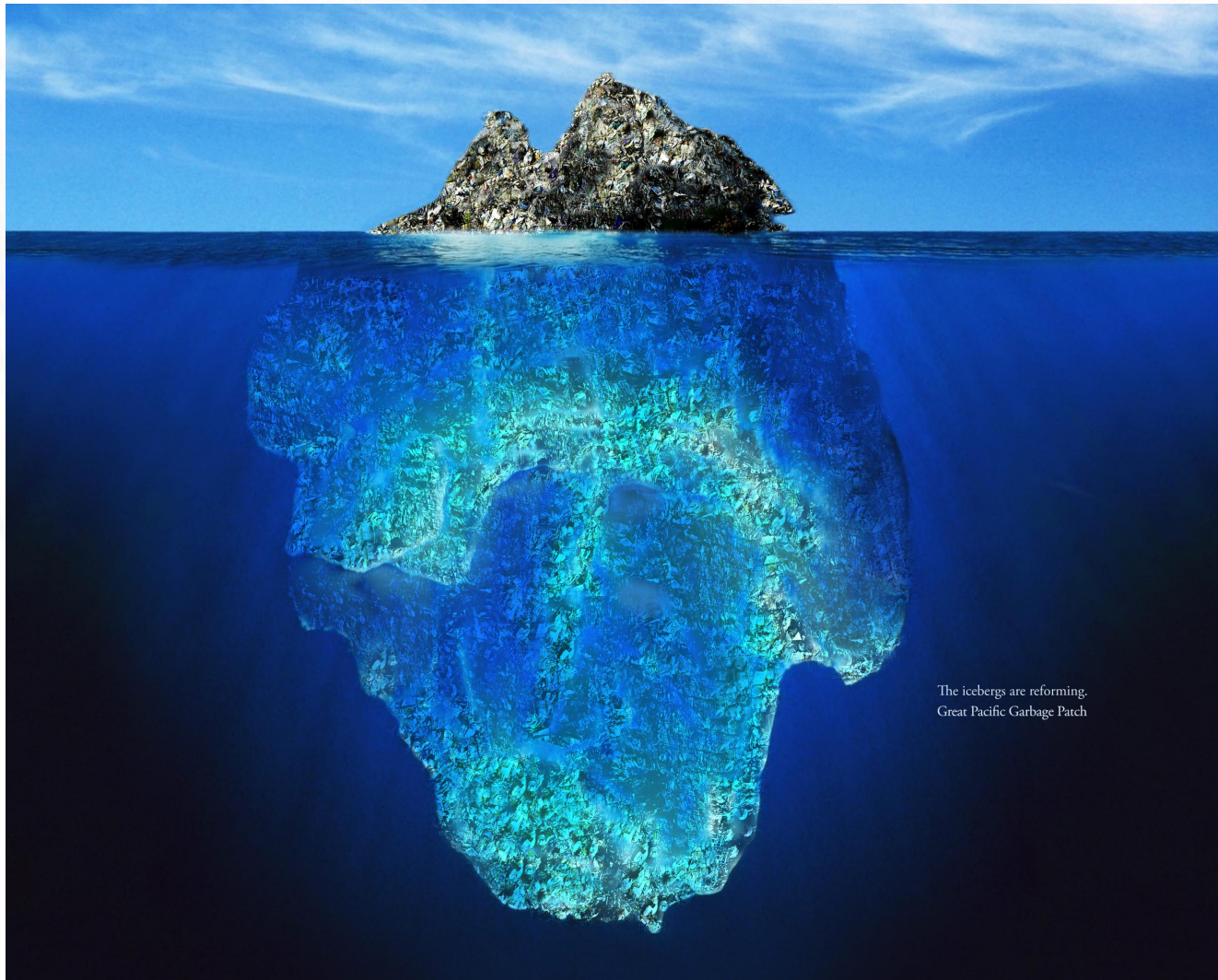


TASK: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch



The icebergs are reforming.
Great Pacific Garbage Patch

What is it?

- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an island just made out of plastic pollution
 - it is twice as large as Texas
- It floats in the ocean just next to North America and is almost 10 metres deep
- The plastic island weights at least 100 million tons
- Its size increses day per day
- The plastic in it doesn't just go away
- The plastic splits into smaller pieces and they breake into small particels than are deadly for fish

Who or what causes it?

- 8% of the GPGP (Great Pacific Garbage Patch) comes from land sources that has washed into rivers and streames and emptied into the ocean
- 20% of the plastic comes from ocean sources
- In 1900 they were 0 pounds plastic for every 1 pound of zooplankton in the pacific
 - in 2000 they were 6 pound of plastic for every 1 pound of zooplankton
- Now there are **60** pounds of plastic for every 1 pound of zooplankton
- The GPPG is a plastic soup
- Plastic does not biodegrade
- There are 5 knows garbage patches in the world oceans growing every day

Who is affected by it?

- Any animal who is living in the ocean or gets their food from there
- Especially sea gulls that eat plankton are heavily effected by the GPGP
- Many seabirds and their chicks have been found dead
 - stomachs filled with bottle tops, lighters and balloons
- Over a million seabirds and one hundred thousand marine mammals and sea turtles are killed each year by either eating or getting tangled in plastic
- Plastics can also act as a sort of "chemical sponge"
 - concentrating many of the most damaging of the pollutants found in the world's oceans: the persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- Animals eating these pieces of plastic debris will also be taking in highly toxic pollutants.