

JUST KEEP SWIMMING...
[don't give up]

George is a big, white, kind and funny polar bear. He used to have many friends: Finney, the penguin; Caroline, the fish, Woolly, the seal. They used to have picnics, swimming competitions in the ice cold sea; sliding in the ice (Caroline wasn't very good at this one, obviously).

Now he is alone... all his friends moved. He's feeling really lonely and sad. They all moved because of the plastic (they were not fun to play with), Also, the water became hotter and the ice was constantly melting. They couldn't play there anymore.

George decided to stay, despite this. He had hope for a better future.

Ricky is tiny, well.... tinier than most pandas and because of that he had no friends, even though he was lovely.

Ricky lives in a forest somewhere in China where he used to be able to eat loads of bamboo, it was just DELICIOUS!!!

One day, Ricky was surfing the net, looking for friends and George came up with a similar profile as Ricky's. Ricky decided to give it a go and made a videocall...and what a nice surprise he had!!

Besides meeting George, he saw a place he had never been to or seen before. George's home, called "habitat" was very different from his: it was really white, there was so much light but it was deserted and, in places, it was melting. George complained that the weather was getting hot and that there were loads of plastic bottles in the water.

- Hi, how are you? Can I see what you're describing? - Ricky asked.

Then George showed him. ... He was shocked... it was unbelievable. There were hundreds of bottles everywhere and packaging all over the place.

- Wow, how did that happen? - Ricky was bewildered.
- That's a good question. I believe the humans did this. They keep on dumping trash into the sea mostly in faraway places, so they cannot see it. - George said sadly and sounding really disturbed.
- You cannot even imagine how my home is, too.... let me show you. (he shows George bits of his habitat). See....no trees, this was supposed to be a forest but now it is just a small part of it. Humans cut down most of the trees, not caring about my family or the other animals.
- I am so sorry.... it's so sad. Your home must have been amazing, fresh and green. - What if we create a blog about our situation, exposing the effects of the destruction? - Ricky suggested.
- I think that is an amazing idea. Maybe people will listen to us if they understand what we're going through. - George agreed.

Together they create the blog, they carefully choose the photos: seals trying to swim in a sea of plastic; ice caps melting; icebergs separating and creating huge destructive waves; people cutting down lots of trees; arsoning (people setting fires to trees): poaching (illegal hunters killing animals).

The blog was a huge success, the number of followers increased every day. People expressed their support for the cause. They offered to help by cleaning the rubbish and spreading the word. Some people even said they had changed their habits and started using public transports more often.

At some point a big company contacts Ricky and George and...guess what?? The company wanted to sponsor a campaign to: **clean the forest, plant more trees** and ... it even bought a special boat to **collect sea rubbish**.

This is an ongoing process and a problem that they're still going through but this helped a lot..

By spreading the word, you can also help this cause.

Will **you** help Ricky and George and save their habitat?

THE END

(Well, actually not the end....

it depends

on what you're doing next about this)