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**Title:** Garbage Island: A Trashy Tale of Environmental Crisis



“A pond in Peninsula Park, Mangere collecting pollution creating a small garbage patch”

Garbage patches are vast areas of marine debris, primarily composed of plastic, accumulated by ocean currents. To solve this environmental crisis, a multi-faceted approach is essential. Firstly, reducing plastic use and promoting recycling is crucial. Effective waste management systems and international collaboration are also necessary to prevent further pollution. Cleanup initiatives employing advanced technologies can aid in removing existing debris. Culturally, Maori people, indigenous to New Zealand, have a deep spiritual connection with nature. Maori cultural values emphasise respect for the environment, aligning with efforts to protect oceans. Collaborating with Maori communities can provide valuable insights and foster sustainable practices to preserve marine ecosystems and combat garbage patches.