

第3問 (配点 9)

Your English teacher told you to read this short fiction story for the next class.

A New Fish Tale

It all started in the Yukarry Plastic Zone, an enormous area of plastic waste in the middle of the Yukarry Sea. For years, salt water broke down the waste into very small pieces called microplastics. Over time, sea life in the Zone absorbed these microplastics from the sea water, and this affected some fish's eggs. Fish that grew from these eggs consisted of both organic and plastic materials. They were a new kind of life on Earth.

After a while, a fishing boat happened to catch one of these partially plastic fish. Marine biologists discovered that the fish were eating much of the ocean waste in the Zone, helping to clean the water. This news quickly spread around the world. People were so thankful for these special plastic-eating fish, calling them, "Heroes of the Sea."

A year later, a research ship came across hundreds of these "heroes" floating on top of the sea. They had all died. After studying this event, the scientists reported that the fish only live for a short time and cannot produce their own eggs. Another problem was that when the fish's bodies broke down, many plastic pieces remained floating on the ocean. This news was a terrible surprise to everyone. The waste problem hadn't been fixed at all. Something still needed to be done to solve it.

The world's governments finally took more responsibility. They began major projects to clean up all of the oceans. They also made single-use plastic illegal. In addition, people were only allowed to use natural materials for bags and containers. This helped create the eco-friendlier world that we enjoy now.

問 1 According to the story, small pieces of plastic were

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- ① affecting the climate of the Earth
- ② causing changes to the eggs of some fish
- ③ gradually absorbed into the Yukarry Sea
- ④ used for improving organic materials

問 2 Based on the second and third paragraphs, people's feelings toward the fish most likely changed from

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- ① angry to frightened
- ② grateful to shocked
- ③ honored to satisfied
- ④ scared to hopeful

問 3 Choose **four** out of the five options (①~⑤) and put them in the order they happened in the story.

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- ① A novel species was born in the ocean.
- ② Catching plastic fish was banned.
- ③ Governments made earth-friendly laws.
- ④ Scientists found that the fish have a limited life cycle.
- ⑤ The hero fish consumed a lot of sea garbage.