

ALBATROSS BOLUS DISSECTION – Instructions & Questions

NAMES: _____

***** Read all instructions below from beginning to end and answer ALL questions.**

Pre-Bolus Dissection

- 1) After getting into a group of 6, write each member of the group's full name on the top of this paper. At your table, you should have a bolus, pair of scissors, pair of tweezers, ruler, and magnifying glass. If not, then ask Rachel for any of these pieces of equipment.
- 2) What is the number/letter of your albatross bolus (it is written on a piece of paper in the plastic bag)? _____
- 3) Now take the albatross bolus out of the plastic bag and place it on your lab tables. BEFORE pulling it apart:
 - a. Measure the bolus with the ruler. Length: _____ Width: _____
 - b. What do you see/observe before beginning the dissection? What does it look like? Do you see any materials right away? Plastic? _____

 - c. Is this what you expected the bolus to look like? Why or why not? _____

Bolus Dissection

- 4) Now begin CAREFULLY and DELICATELY pulling apart the bolus. Begin sorting the pieces into the following categories. If you do not know what something is, then look at it under the microscope or ask Rachel.
 - a. CATEGORIES to sort materials into piles:
 - i. Squid beak parts
 - ii. Grass and Dirt – natural products
 - iii. Fishing Line and Rope – non-natural products
 - iv. Plastics
 - v. Shell parts and Rocks
 - vi. Unidentifiable
- 5) Sort completely and thoroughly into piles. Once sorted, fill out data sheet completely. Count pieces, if there are a lot of pieces, then guesstimate the amount.
- 6) Were the items you found expected or unexpected? Why? _____

- 7) Was there more or less plastic than expected? Why? _____

→ → → MORE ON BACK!

- 8) Use the ruler and guesstimate the average size of plastic found in the bolus? _____
a. What do you think determines the size of plastic albatross can swallow? _____

- 9) What is the most common color of non-natural materials? _____

Post Bolus Dissection

- 10) Combine your bolus dissection piles with the other group who has the other half. Make sure you are matching numbers (example: 1a with 1b).
- 11) Once you have combined dissections. You are now ready to frame the dissection. You will obtain a frame and take off the glass. Then you will lay the pieces in nice, artistic piles on the matting. Leave room for a small sheet of paper and a small photo at the bottom.
- 12) Fill out the small sheet of paper (ask Rachel for this). With the following information:
- Albatross Species – check bag and see if it says LAAL (Laysan’s Albatross) or BFAL (Black-footed Albatross). Write the name on the sheet of paper.
 - Collection Location is: KURE Atoll.
 - Collection Year is listed on your bag, write it on this line.
 - Dissection Date is today and Location is your high school/class.
 - Looking at the WHOLE bolus dissection guesstimate how much is natural products and how much is man-made, non-natural products.
 - In the comments section, then write any important findings.
- 13) Once framed, then place cover back on.

After Framing

- 14) Clean up area. Bring all forceps, tweezers, scissors, and magnifying glass to front and put in Tupperware. Sweep left over dirt/debris into garbage. Re-fold large dissecting piece of paper and put into Tupperware.
- Make sure this paper is COMPLETELY filled out and place in one of your folders.
 - Make sure Rachel gets your COMPLETELY filled out data sheets.
- 15) Place your framed bolus dissection at the front of the room.