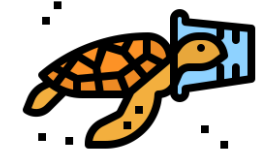


Plastic Pollution

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



ESSENTIAL PLASTIC POLLUTION VOCABULARY	
micro-beads	Very small pieces of material, often used in cosmetics.
hazard	A danger or risk.
pollution	The presence of a harmful substance in an environment.
pollutant	A substance that pollutes something.
toxic	Poisonous or harmful.
pollute	To contaminate something with harmful substances.
material	The matter something is made from.
plastic	A synthetic material.
contaminant	A polluting or poisonous substance.
consumption	Using up a resource.
landfill	The disposal of waste material by burying it.
turtles	A large marine reptile with a bony or leathery shell and flippers.
debris	Scattered pieces of rubbish or remains
environment	An environment contains many habitats with living things.
river	A large natural stream of water flowing to the sea, a lake or another river.

1862	1907	1946	1970s	1979	1990s	1997	2002	2015
The first man-made plastic displayed.	Synthetic, fossil-fuel based plastic created.	Discovered that plastic production quadrupled during the war.	Research into the amount of plastic on the sea floor.	Plastic grocery bags are introduced in the US,	Micro-beads in cosmetics become more widespread.	Great Pacific Garbage Patch discovered.	Bangladesh becomes the first country to ban plastic bags	A 5p charge for plastic bags begins in England.

What is Plastic Pollution?

As plastic is cheap and easy to make, it is bought, used and thrown away in a huge quantity. Because plastic is made to last, it is very durable which means that it takes a very long time to decompose. Before decomposing, it breaks into tiny pieces which ends up in our water. This pollutes the water and harms animals living in it.



Why is Plastic Used?

- There are different types of plastic. Rigid plastic keeps fragile items protected and flexible plastic is good for wrapping or carrying items.
- It is a lightweight, mouldable and strong material.
- Food stays fresher for longer when wrapped in plastic.
- It has a wide range of uses- even seat belts in cars are made from plastic!



Facts and Figures

- Single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year.
- A plastic bottle can take 450 years to break down into microscopic pieces- meaning every piece of plastic that has ever been produced is still with us!
- About 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans every year.

Facts and Figures

Sea animals often eat micro-plastics as they are so small. Because the plastic contains toxic chemicals, this can make the animals very sick.

Ending Plastic Pollution

To help end plastic pollution, it is important to remember to reduce, reuse and recycle:

- **reduce** (use less plastic)
Use alternatives (such as bamboo) if possible to avoid buying single-use plastics. Instead of plastic straws, you can buy metal ones that can then be used again.
- **reuse** (use existing products instead of single-use plastic)
If you already have plastic items, reuse them several times instead of throwing them away. If you have plastic toys you no longer use, give them to a charity shop instead of throwing them away.
- **recycle** (instead of using landfill).
Before buying plastic, check for the recycling symbol and then recycle it instead of throwing it away. This should be a last resort, as it still has a negative impact on the environment.



MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING GOLDEN VOCABULARY	
Galapagos Islands	Turtles are famously found at the Galapagos Islands.
Natural disasters	Debris is created after a disaster.
Living Things	Different living things thrive in different environments .
Rivers	Rivers are suffering from plastic pollution.