

End Plastic Pollution

Our Planet

We only have one planet and so we need to take care of it. This means being responsible for looking after the earth, along with the plants, animals, birds, sea creatures and everything in it. We also need to make sure we don't damage it in anyway. Unfortunately, the earth and its living things have been damaged in many ways. One major damage has been caused through plastic pollution. This has had a huge impact on the earth and many animals but luckily, there are things we can do to help.

What Is Plastic Pollution?

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the damage it causes to the world.



End Plastic Pollution

1. Humans buy and use a lot of plastic because it is cheap and easy to make.



2. They then throw this away.



3. Plastic is strong because it was made to last. So when it is thrown away, it takes hundreds of years to rot away.



4. Lots of the plastic ends up in our streams, rivers and the ocean.

The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing more and more rapidly, meaning it is threatening our planet through:

- injuring sea life;
- littering beaches and landscapes;
- clogging rubbish dumps;
- making humans (and other animals) ill.



Did You Know...?

- There are 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste on earth.
- Plastic bags are killing over 100,000 marine animals and birds every year.

What Can You Do to 'End Plastic Pollution'?

The Three Rs: First Reduce, Then Reuse, Then Recycle

There are lots of things we can all do to help end plastic pollution.

- **Reduce:** Avoid single-use plastics, such as straws and takeaway cups. Talk to your family, head teacher or school council about how your school and family can reduce their plastic use.
- **Reuse:** Instead of buying new ones, refill and reuse water bottles and lunch bags. Use fabric bags for carrying shopping, rather than plastic bags.
- **Recycle:** Always recycle plastic when you can instead of throwing it away with the normal rubbish.



Questions

1. Which of the following should we help to care for? Tick two.
 - animals
 - computers
 - each other
 - nothing – it's someone else's responsibility
2. Why do humans buy lots of plastic? Tick two.
 - It can be very colourful.
 - It's cheap.
 - It's easy to make.
 - It is good for your health.
3. How many billion tonnes of plastic waste are there on earth? Tick one.
 - 1970
 - 6.3
 - 100,000
 - 190
4. Which of these is **not** a way you can help? Tick one.
 - reduce
 - remake
 - reuse
 - recycle
5. Give two examples of single-use plastics.
 1. _____
 2. _____
6. What do you think you could do to help end plastic pollution?

Answers

1. Which of the following should we help to care for? Tick two.

- animals**
- computers
- each other**
- nothing – it's someone else's responsibility

2. Why do humans buy lots of plastic? Tick two.

- It can be very colourful.
- It's cheap.**
- It's easy to make.**
- It is good for your health.

3. How many billion tonnes of plastic waste are there on earth? Tick one.

- 1970
- 6.3**
- 100,000
- 190

4. Which of these is **not** a way you can help? Tick one.

- reduce
- remake**
- reuse
- recycle

5. Give two examples of single-use plastics.

Accept the following answers: straws, takeaway cups

6. What do you think you could do to help end plastic pollution?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I could talk to the school council to suggest that school stops buying plastic toys for the playground and buys wooden toys or recycled toys instead.

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Our Planet

We only have one planet and so we all need to take responsibility for it. This means looking after the earth and everything in it and making sure we don't damage it in anyway. Everyone can play their part in making sure the earth is safe, clean and looked after and this also includes caring for the plants, animals, birds, sea creatures and each other. Over time, one major problem that has occurred when people haven't been looking after the earth is known as plastic pollution. Even though this has been caused by us, luckily, there are things we can do to help.

What Is Plastic Pollution?

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the damage it causes to the environment.



Did You Know...?

- There are 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste on Earth.
- 80% of the rubbish floating in the oceans is plastic.
- Plastic bags are killing over 100,000 marine animals and birds every year.

End Plastic Pollution

1. Because plastic is cheap and easy to make, humans buy and use a lot of it.

2. They then throw this away.

3. But plastic is strong and hard-wearing because it was made to last. So when it is thrown away, it takes hundreds of years to rot away.

4. It breaks into tiny pieces, which then get blown around by the wind and the rain. Lots of the plastic ends up in our streams, rivers and the ocean.

The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing more and more rapidly, meaning it is threatening our planet through:

- poisoning and injuring sea life;
- littering beaches and landscapes;
- clogging landfills (or rubbish dumps);
- making humans (and other animals) ill.



What Can You Do to 'End Plastic Pollution'?

The Three Rs: First Reduce, Then Reuse, Then Recycle

There are lots of things we can all do to help end plastic pollution.

- **Reduce:** Avoid single-use plastics, such as straws and takeaway cups. Choose alternatives, such as bamboo. Talk to your family, head teacher or school council about how your school and family can reduce their plastic use.
- **Reuse:** Instead of buying new ones, refill and reuse water bottles and lunch bags. Use fabric bags, which are strong and long-lasting, for carrying shopping rather than single-use plastic bags.
- **Recycle:** Check for the recycling symbol before you buy plastic. Then make sure that you always recycle plastic when you can, instead of throwing it away with the normal litter.



Questions

1. Fill in the missing words in the sentence below. _____ has a responsibility to look after the world. We need to care for plants, animals, birds, _____ and each other. Plastic pollution has been caused by _____ but luckily we _____ do something about it.

2. Draw lines to match the questions and answers.

How many tonnes of plastic waste are there on earth?

80%

How many marine animals and birds are killed by plastic bags each year?

6.3 billion

How much of the rubbish floating in the oceans is plastic?

over 100,000

3. Which facts are true about plastic? Tick two.

- It is strong and long-lasting.
- It takes ten years to rot away.
- It is cheap and easy to make.
- The amount is reducing rapidly.

4. How can you reduce the amount of plastic you use? Tick one.

- avoid single-use plastic
- choose alternatives to plastic
- talk to family and school council
- all of the above

5. How are animals harmed by plastic?

6. Why do humans use a lot of plastic?

7. Why should you use fabric shopping bags?

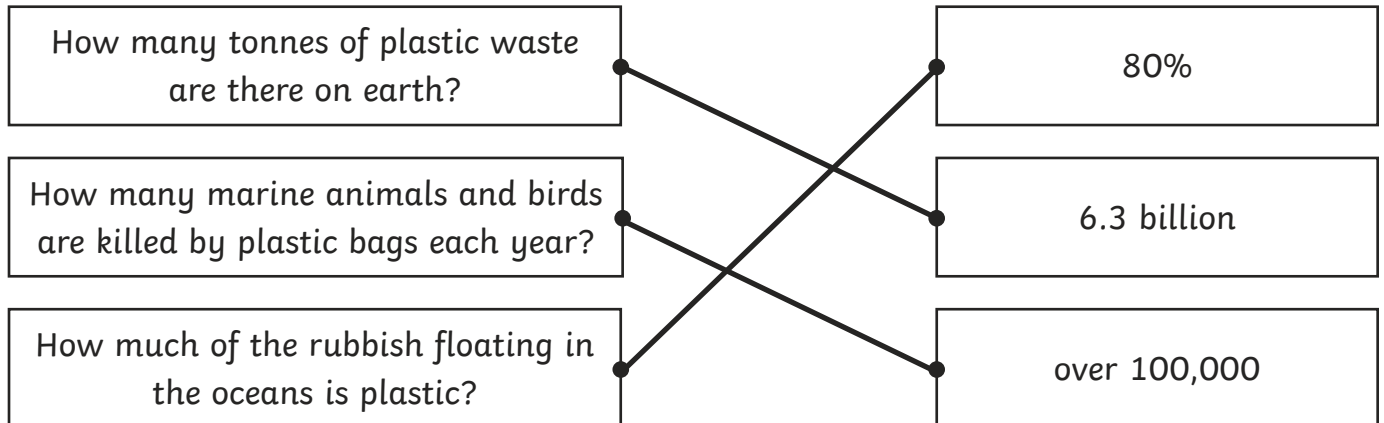
8. Explain why it important to think about plastic pollution.

Answers

1. Fill in the missing words in the sentence below.

Everyone has a responsibility to look after the world. We need to care for plants, animals, birds, **sea creatures** and each other. Plastic pollution has been caused by us but luckily we **can** do something about it.

2. Draw lines to match the questions and answers.



3. Which facts are true about plastic? Tick two.

- It is strong and long-lasting.**
- It takes ten years to rot away.
- It is cheap and easy to make.**
- The amount is reducing rapidly.

4. How can you reduce the amount of plastic you use? Tick one.

- avoid single-use plastic
- choose alternatives to plastic
- talk to family and school council
- all of the above**

5. How are animals harmed by plastic?

Accept any of the following: They are poisoned or injured; It makes them ill; Plastic bags are killing over 100,000 marine animals and birds every year.

6. Why do humans use a lot of plastic?

Accept any of the following: Humans use a lot of plastic because plastic is cheap and easy to make; Humans use a lot of plastic because plastic is strong and hard-wearing.

7. Why should you use fabric shopping bags?

Pupils' own responses, such as: You should use fabric shopping bags because they are

strong and long-lasting so are better for the environment than single-use plastic bags, which cause plastic pollution.

8. Explain why it important to think about plastic pollution.

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Plastic pollution is a worldwide problem created by humans, which causes a lot of damage to the environment and animals living in it so it is important for us to think about how we can help.

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We only have one planet and so we need to take responsibility for it. This means looking after the earth and everything in it and making sure we don't damage it in anyway. Everyone can play their part in making sure the earth is safe, clean and looked after and this also includes caring for the plants, animals, birds, sea creatures and each other. Over time, people have been caring less and less about the earth and now we are trying to deal with the consequences that have been caused. One major problem that has occurred is known as plastic pollution which has unfortunately, been caused by careless humans. Luckily, there are things we can do to help reduce this damage.

What Is Plastic Pollution?

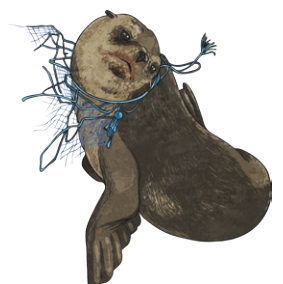
The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the **pollution** and damage it causes to the environment. Because plastic is cheap and easy to make, humans buy and use a lot of it. They then throw this away. But, plastic is strong and **durable** because it was made to last. So when it is thrown away, it takes hundreds of years to **decompose**. It breaks into tiny pieces, which then get blown around by the wind and the rain. Lots of the plastic ends up in our streams, rivers and the ocean.

The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing more and more rapidly, meaning it is threatening our planet through poisoning and injuring **marine** life, littering beaches and landscapes, clogging **landfills** and making humans (and other animals) ill.



Did You Know...?

- There are 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste on Earth.
- 80% of the **debris** floating in the oceans is plastic.
- 267 species of animal around the world are harmed by plastic (either through swallowing or becoming tangled in plastic).



What Can You Do to 'End Plastic Pollution'?

The Three Rs: First Reduce, Then Reuse, Then Recycle

There are lots of things we can all do to help end plastic pollution. We need to remember the three Rs but it is important to first try to 'reduce' our use of plastics, then 'reuse' where possible. The last resort is to 'recycle' as this still has a negative impact on the environment.



- **Reduce:** Avoid single-use plastics, such as takeaway cups and straws, instead use alternatives such as bamboo. You can't do this alone, so it is important to talk to your family, head teacher or school council about how your school and family can reduce their plastic use.
- **Reuse:** If you have plastic items, ensure that you use them multiple times. For example, instead of buying new ones, refill and reuse water bottles and lunch bags. Also avoid using single-use plastic bags for shopping, using strong, long-lasting fabric bags instead.
- **Recycle:** Check for the recycling symbol before you buy plastic and make sure that you always recycle plastic when you can, instead of **disposing** of it with the normal rubbish.



Glossary

debris: Scattered pieces of rubbish.

decompose: Rot away.

disposing: Throwing something away.

durable: Hard-wearing.

landfills: An area filled with waste.

marine: Relating to, or found in, the sea.

pollution: Something harmful or poisonous within the environment.



Questions

1. What do we have a responsibility for? Tick one.

- To look after the earth.
- To care for animals.
- To keep the earth safe and clean.
- All of the above.

2. *But, plastic is strong and **durable**, because it was made to last.*

What does the word **durable** mean? Tick one.

- single-use
- hard-wearing
- long-lasting
- never-ending

3. Number these events to show the order in which they happen:

- Humans buy and use a lot of plastic.
- Plastic is made.
- Plastic is durable so takes hundreds of years to decompose.
- Humans throw away plastic.
- Plastic breaks into tiny pieces which end up in our streams, rivers and oceans.

4. Name three ways that plastic is threatening our planet.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5. Find and copy a phrase or sentence which tells you that plastic pollution can hurt animals.

6. Why is it better to **reduce** your use of plastic rather than to **recycle** plastic?

7. What one thing could you do today to help reduce plastic pollution?

8. In your own words, explain what plastic pollution is.

Answers

1. What do we have a responsibility for? Tick one.

- To look after the earth.
- To care for animals.
- To keep the earth safe and clean.
- All of the above.**

2. *But, plastic is strong and **durable**, because it was made to last.*

What does the word **durable** mean? Tick one.

- single-use
- hard-wearing**
- long-lasting
- never-ending

3. Number these events to show the order in which they happen:

- 2** Humans buy and use a lot of plastic.
- 1** Plastic is made.
- 4** Plastic is durable so takes hundreds of years to decompose.
- 3** Humans throw away plastic.
- 5** Plastic breaks into tiny pieces which end up in our streams, rivers and oceans.

4. Name three ways that plastic is threatening our planet.

Accept any three of the following: poisoning and injuring/harming marine/sea life; littering beaches and landscapes; clogging landfills; making humans (and other animals) ill.

5. Find and copy a phrase or sentence which tells you that plastic pollution can hurt animals.

Accept any of the following: poisoning and injuring marine life; making animals ill; 267 species of animal around the world are harmed by plastic (either through swallowing or becoming tangled in plastic).

6. Why is it better to **reduce** your use of plastic rather than to **recycle** plastic?

Pupils' own responses, such as: When you recycle plastic, it still has a negative effect on the environment whereas by reducing your use of plastic, you are not contributing less to the issue of plastic pollution at all.

7. What one thing could you do today to help reduce plastic pollution?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I could encourage my family to buy or make some fabric shopping bags to use in place of the single-use plastic bags that we currently use.

8. In your own words, explain what plastic pollution is.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Plastic pollution is all of the plastic waste in our environment, especially the tiny pieces which are so harmful to us and animals. There are now 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste on Earth, which takes hundreds of years to decompose.