

WALT: understand about plastic pollution.

Geography

Watch!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFPoU5iiYQ>

What is the impact of plastic pollution?

Who is it affecting?

How is it affecting them?

Pollution

Pollution is when chemicals, gases, smoke or other harmful materials are introduced to, and damage, the environment.

Pollution can be caused by many different things such as the burning of **fossil fuels**.

In recent times, there has been growing concern about the damage that plastic is doing to the environment.



Glossary

fossil fuels: Coal, oil and gas used to power factories, cars and homes.

Where Is Plastic Found?

Plastic is **versatile** and cheap to make, so it is used to make lots of things. It is quite easy to tell when some items are plastic, such as drinks bottles and shopping bags.

However, plastic can be found in some surprising places:

- Some shampoos, face washes and toothpaste have plastic in them.
- Clothes made from material like nylon, polyester and lycra come from plastic.
- The outside of golf and tennis balls are made from plastic.



Glossary

versatile: Can be used in lots of different ways.

Why Does Plastic Damage the Environment?

The main problem with plastic is that it takes an extremely long time to **decompose**. A plastic bottle can last for up to 500 years. That means that a bottle dropped in the ocean or put in a **landfill site** today could still be there in the year 2518!

Plastic has **toxins** in it that are harmful to wildlife.

Glossary

decompose: Rot, decay, break down.

landfill site: Rubbish sites where

refuse is buried underground.

toxins: Poisonous substances.



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Why Does Plastic Damage Oceans?

Sea creatures can get stuck in plastic bags or the rings that hold drinks cans together. This can cause suffocation, starvation (because they can't get to food), or means that they cannot escape predators.

Sea turtles sometimes confuse plastic bags with jellyfish and eat them. This damages their insides and they can die. Around 70% of dead sea turtles are found to have eaten plastic.

Did You Know...?

- It is thought that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the seas.
- 99% of seabirds have eaten plastic.



Let's write a speech!



To the people of the world,

Plastic pollution... we need to tackle this problem now! I do not think that we realise just how much harm and destruction it is causing to the sea creatures and their habitat! How would you like it if all of the rubbish from the landfills was thrown into your back garden? You would not be impressed, would you!

We need to all come together as a nation to think of a solution for this tremendous issue that we have on our hands!

We need to encourage people to use less plastic and if they do need to use this material, then it needs to be recycled efficiently!

Together, we can do this!

Thank you for listening!



Your Task:

You need to write a speech to persuade people to take care of the ocean and understand the dangers of plastic pollution.