

## Key Knowledge

Plastic has many different /important uses:

- Plastic is cheap
- Plastic is strong
- Plastic is malleable/moulds into different shapes
- It is vital in modern medicine
- *It has allowed* lots of innovation
- Plastic improves food hygiene
- Plastic has helped reduce carbon emission

Plastic production and use is booming. Over the last 10 years we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century.

The majority of our plastic still ends up in landfills, where it will stay for centuries.

Lots of plastic escapes from waste management and eventually ends up in our rivers and seas.

A pilot whale in Thailand swallowed more than 80 plastic bags and this caused its death.

90 % of rubbish floating on the ocean's surface is plastic.

1 million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastics in our oceans.

Approx 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide. More than one million bags every minute are thrown away.

50% of the plastic we use, we only use once and then throw it away

We currently only recycle 5 % of plastics

Single plastics are one of the main sources of beach litter

It takes 500-1,00 years for plastic to degrade

# Plastics in the Ocean

## 10 ways to Rise above Plastic

1. Choose to reuse (shopping bags, bottles water) Cloth bags and metal or glass reusable bottles should be used whenever possible.
2. Refuse single serving packaging, excess packaging, straws and other disposable plastic – carry reusable utensils.
3. Reduce everyday plastics such as sandwich bags and juice cartons.
4. Bring mugs with you.
5. Go digital – no need for plastic cds, dvds – buy music on line.
6. Seek alternative to plastics items that you rely upon
7. Re-cycle
8. Volunteer at a beach clean up
9. Support plastic bag bans, polystyrene foam bans and bottle recycling
10. **Spread the word**

**Re-use, Re- cycle, reduce and REFUSE**



## WOW Activity

- visit to a recycling centre or recycling visit to school
- Watching the you tube video – planetarium [youtu.be/xKzqLdkuj6I](https://youtu.be/xKzqLdkuj6I)
- Blue planet visit

Vocab	Definition
pollution	anything added to the environment that is harmful to living things
biodegradable	capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms and thereby avoiding pollution
global warming	a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants.
environment	the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity.
containers	an object for holding things
Plastics	A material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, PVC, nylon, etc., that can be moulded into shape while soft, and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form.
toxins	poisonous chemicals that react with specific cellular components to kill cells or to alter growth or development in undesirable ways; often harmful, even in dilute concentrations.
littering	is when You throw rubbish in the street
waste	any materials unused and rejected as worthless or unwanted
threat	something that is a source of danger
recycle	to put wastes, rubbish, or the like, through a cycle of purification and conversion to useful products