

An illustration of a blue ocean with various pieces of plastic waste floating on the surface. A large white plastic bag is the central focus, with other smaller pieces of trash like a red fragment, a green piece, and a white piece scattered around. In the foreground, there are green, rocky islands with some seaweed. The title 'Plastic Pollution' is written in large, white, bold letters with a blue outline across the middle of the image.

Plastic Pollution

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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.

Plastic Is Useful



It keeps things airtight, which is ideal for keeping food fresh.



It is waterproof so nothing leaks out or drips in.



It can be made into a range of items from chairs to cars, dice to drainpipes.



It can even be used in craft and art work!

Did you know?

The word 'plastic' comes from the Greek word 'plastikos' which means 'fit for moulding'.

Discuss it

Talk about the other uses of plastic with adult or sibling.

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.



Plastic and the Environment

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the [pollution](#) and damage it causes the environment.

Plastic breaks into tiny pieces, which then get blown around by the wind and the rain.

It ends up in our streams, rivers and the ocean.



What do you think about these pictures?

All living things should be able to live free from pollution and harm from plastics. So, what can we do?

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.



Photo courtesy of Stefan Leijon (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Useful Websites

www.earthday.org/

www.plastic-pollution.org/

www.natgeokids.com/

<https://plasticoceans.org/>



Your Task

Identify three things you use which are made of plastic.

Write three positive statements about plastic

Write three problems caused by plastics.

Explain two changes people can make to help the environment.

You can write the answers on paper or use the worksheet.

Plastic Pollution

Identify three objects you use which are made of plastic:

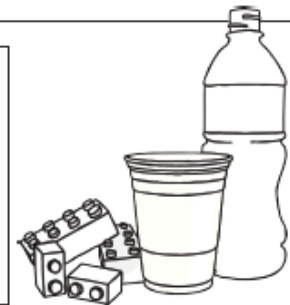
decompose
pollution
toxic
microbeads

biodegradable
global warming gases
landfill sites
poisonous

Write three positive statements about plastics.

Write three problems caused by plastics.

Explain two ways people can make changes to help the environment.



Additional Task

Think of a question you have about the oceans and carry out some research to find the answer.

Then choose how you would like to present your answer.

A poster? Newspaper Article? PowerPoint? Video? Model?

You will find an **Oceans** folder in the files section of the General Channel with a range of materials to support further research.

Possible question ideas....

Does the ocean freeze? Where is the deepest part of the ocean? How do fish survive under water? What can we do to protect the ocean? What animals do you find in the ocean?

In the News

Why our Oceans are important

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52132683>

Sea Turtles

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52618038>

Why our Oceans are getting hotter

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51104176>

Lego in the Ocean

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51924514>

World Oceans Day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/world-oceans-day>

Some art and craft ideas



Ocean
zones
in a jar



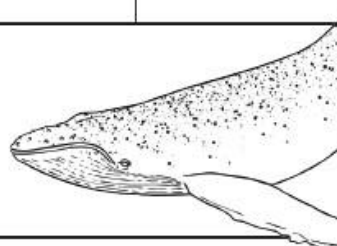

You will find this in the Oceans folder on Microsoft Teams.

Just for fun

An Amazing Fact a Day

Crack the Codes under the Sea

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

20 - 5 = _____	20 - 17 = _____	10 + 10 = _____	10 + 5 = _____	8 + 8 = _____	30 - 9 = _____	25 - 6 = _____
10 + 9 = _____	4 + 4 = _____	30 - 29 = _____	11 + 7 = _____	25 - 14 = _____		
30 - 7 = _____	100 - 92 = _____	45 - 44 = _____	7 + 5 = _____	65 - 60 = _____		
2 + 2 = _____	35 - 20 = _____	23 - 11 = _____	29 - 13 = _____	3 + 5 = _____		
89 - 70 = _____	50 - 42 = _____	8 + 10 = _____	39 - 30 = _____	6 + 7 = _____	11 + 5 = _____	
6 + 13 = _____	27 - 10 = _____	14 + 7 = _____	2 + 7 = _____	28 - 24 = _____		

Just for fun

Name _____

SCHOLASTIC

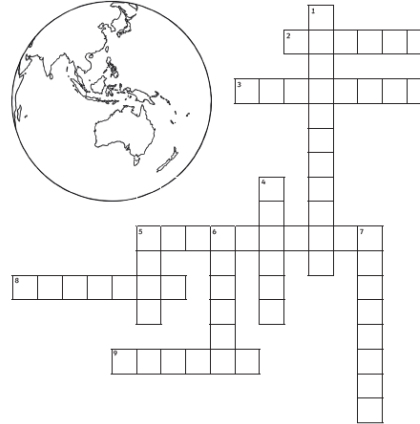
SAVE OUR OCEANS WORDSEARCH

Can you find the 18 words listed below in the wordsearch? Words can go up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally.

I	P	R	O	M	D	S	R	C	O	D	N	A	I
R	A	I	C	N	C	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	C
N	N	U	P	O	L	A	R	B	E	A	R	U	R
A	P	N	O	I	S	O	R	E	L	A	T	I	B
C	N	O	I	T	U	L	L	O	P	B	A	U	T
E	P	E	L	A	H	W	E	U	L	B	L	P	S
N	E	I	R	V	T	C	L	U	R	H	P	P	O
R	N	K	P	R	E	L	E	N	U	O	A	A	N
E	G	O	H	E	I	F	A	M	O	C	C	A	C
H	U	N	F	S	I	I	P	N	E	I	C	A	A
T	I	T	C	N	B	W	C	T	D	F	E	B	
U	N	E	T	O	A	N	I	C	N	I	I	R	O
O	O	U	C	C	R	R	R	I	O	D	C	U	E
S	N	I	K	O	L	A	E	M	C	H	T	B	H
A	T	T	U	I	I	N	L	I	A	I	A	O	I

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA COD DOLPHIN
 PACIFIC POLLUTION SOUTHERN BLUE WHALE
 HUMPBACK CONSERVATION INDIAN CORAL
 ARCTIC POLAR BEAR PENGUIN ICE CAPS
 EROSION COASTLINE

Continents and Oceans



Across

- Continent far from Australia. (6)
- Ocean south of Australia. (8)
- Continent south of Australia. (10)
- Ocean between Australia and South America. (7)
- Ocean to the west of Australia. (6)

Down

- Continent east of the Indian Ocean. (9)
- Ocean far from Australia. (6)
- Continent to the north of Australia. (4)
- Continent south of Europe. (6)
- Ocean between North America and Europe. (8)

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You will find these in the Oceans folder on Microsoft Teams.

