

# How long until it is gone?

- In your pairs, match the items that are often found in the ocean with how long you think they take to break down.
- Talk about how long you think each item will take to break down and why.
- I think .....take(s).....to break down because.....
- Afterwards, you will listen to a recording and will hear the correct answers.



apple core	2 months
fishing line	600 years
newspaper	6 weeks
plastic shopping bag	10-100 years
plastic bottle	450 years

tin can	50 years
disposable nappy	450 years
cigarettes	1-5 years
plastic straws	100-500 years
cardboard box	2 months

# Answers (to read out or make own recording)

- There are many different types of rubbish that end up in our oceans and waters, from plastic bags, to food containers and straws. Some take longer than others to break down.
- Items made of plastic take longer to break down. **Plastic bottles take about 450 years** and **plastic shopping bags take between 10 to 100 years**. Even smaller items, such as **plastic straws can take 100 to 500 years** to break down. Others items, such as **fishing lines can take 600 years**, as they are made of plastic and other man-made materials.
- Plastic rubbish isn't the only thing found in our oceans. Rubbish such as apple cores, cigarettes and tin cans have also been found. **Apple cores can take 2 months** to break down. **Cigarettes take 1 to 5 years** and **tin cans take 50 years**.
- Others types of rubbish found in the oceans include newspapers, cardboard boxes and even nappies! **Newspapers take 6 weeks** to break down and **cardboard boxes take up to 2 months**. Many people are surprised to learn that **disposable nappies take 450 years** to break down!