

## Plastic in our oceans

Did you know that since the 1950s, one billion tons of plastic has been thrown away?

If you look around you, you'll probably see plastic everywhere. You're probably wearing clothes that are partly made of plastic. If you have a phone in your pocket, that's mostly plastic and so is your computer. Much of your food and many drinks come in plastic containers, like bags or bottles.

Plastic is everywhere. This is because people make it in large amounts because it is very useful. That's why plastic is becoming a serious problem, especially around the world's beaches and oceans. Plastic can be very useful for humans but it is bad news for other life on our planet.

People make a lot of things out of plastic because it is cheap. Plastic things also last a long time. This can be very useful for people but it's one of the biggest problems for the environment because most plastics last forever.

Most plastics are not easily recycled. Some plastics get burnt to make heat energy to power electricity generators but most plastics go on garbage tips or just get thrown away, ending up in rivers, lakes and the world's oceans.

Many marine animals try to eat the plastic and marine mammals (like dolphins) often get trapped by plastic nets. Plastics also poison the animals that eat them. Eventually, much of the plastic sinks to the sea floor or ends up on beaches all around the world.



Questions (answer in full sentences)

How much rubbish has been thrown away since 1950?

What types of things are made from plastic? (name 3)

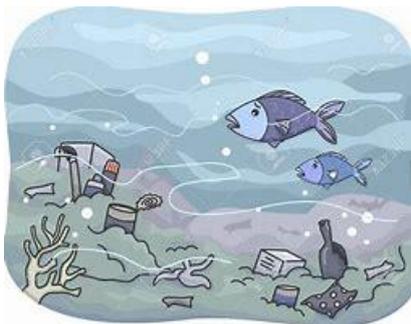
Why do people make a lot of things out of plastic?

Are plastics easy to recycle?

What type of energy is used to power electricity generators?

What type of animals can get trapped in plastic nets?

Describe what is happening in the pictures below-



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