



PLASTIC IS NOT FANTASTIC

It's long-lasting, cheap to produce and very useful, but plastic is causing huge damage to our incredible planet.



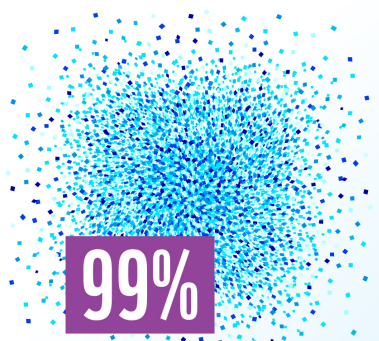
358

There are **358 items of litter** per square km on Britain's sea floor (on average).



REDUCE, REUSE

Although many of us recycle single-use plastics, only 9% of the world's total is actually recycled. So it's better to use less in the first place, for example by using reusable water bottles. Around **33% of all plastics** find their way into fragile ecosystems, like rivers and oceans.



99%

Once it's in water, plastic breaks up into small particles called microplastics. By 2050 **microplastics could be found in 99% of all seabird species.**



2050

By 2050, oceans could contain more plastic than fish.



TURTLE-LY EPIC!

Rare Olive Ridley turtles hatched on a beach in Mumbai after volunteers spent **two years** clearing tonnes of plastic. Turtles hadn't been seen there for decades before people worked together to clean up the beach.



A LOT OF BOTTLE

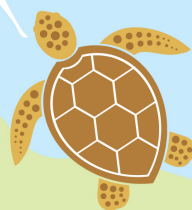
Globally, **one million** plastic water bottles are used every minute and 91% of them are not recycled.

400

It takes **400 years for a plastic water bottle to degrade.** That's why single-use plastic items (like plastic straws, bottles and bags) are particularly bad – sometimes they're only used for seconds, but they stick around for centuries.

TUMMY ACHES

Animals can mistake plastic rubbish for food, get tangled in packaging or old fishing lines, or choke on plastic-clogged water.



MORE, MORE, MORE

We are producing around **20 times more plastic** than we did 50 years ago and this could double again in the next 20 years.

SAVE THE WHALES

WWF is monitoring levels of pollutants, including plastics, in whales by taking skin and blubber samples from them.



WE CAN FIGHT AGAINST PLASTIC!

Visit the WWF website for more engaging classroom resources and activities.

www.org.uk/schoolsandplastic

#FORYOURWORLD