

Key Vocabulary Overview

plastic	a type of material that can be formed into lots of different shapes and usually lasts for a long time
human-made material	a material that is made by people and does not occur naturally
reduce	to use less of something to cut down on the amount of waste produced
reuse	to use something again rather than throwing it away
recycle	to convert waste into a material that can be used again
single-use	can only be used once

Be Mind Kind

While every care has been taken to ensure that there are no significant emotional triggers regarding eco-anxiety for children, any feelings that arise should be embraced and discussed non-judgementally.

What's Good about Plastic?

Plastic is a type of material that is **human-made**. **Plastic** is useful to us because it can have different properties and can be made into lots of different shapes.

Plastic can be:



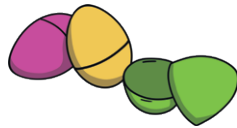
soft and
flexible



strong and
rigid

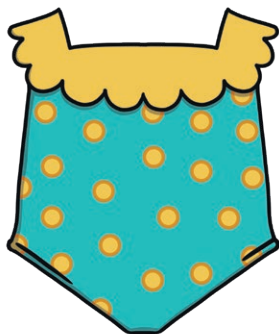


transparent



opaque

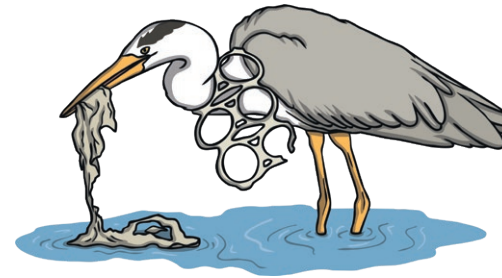
Plastic is even used to make some types of fabric for clothing.



What's Bad about Plastic?

Single-use plastics are thrown away after use but they last in the environment for a very long time.

It can take up to 100 years for **plastic** to break down.



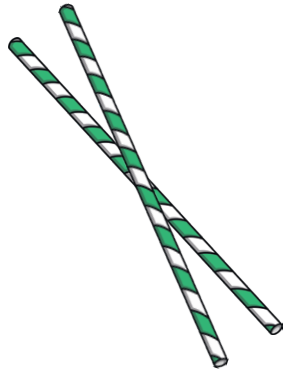
Plastic can end up in places where it can cause danger to animals and their habitats.



Plastic often ends up in landfills. Landfills are places where rubbish is buried in the ground. They are not very safe and are not nice to look at. They are also getting full.

Reduce

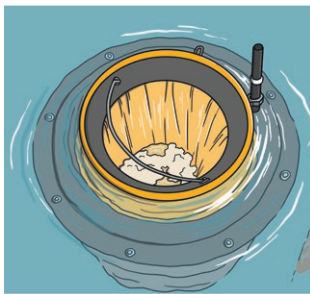
People are reducing **plastic** waste. In England, **single-use plastic** straws are not allowed to be sold. Straws are now often made of paper.



Many people now use a **reusable** water bottle rather than a **single-use plastic** water bottle.



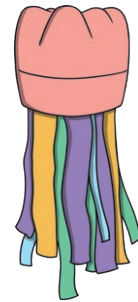
Engineers have invented sea bins, which float in the sea and remove **plastic** from the water.



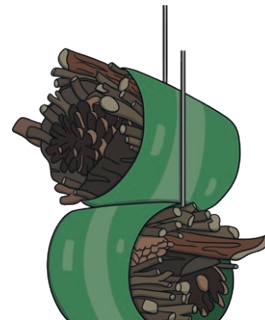
Reuse

We can **reuse plastic** rather than putting it in the bin.

We can make arts and crafts.



We can help wildlife.



We can help plants to grow.



Recycle

Some **plastics** can be **recycled**. They are sent away to a place that can turn them into new materials.



Not all **plastics** can be **recycled**. We can tell if a **plastic** can be **recycled** by the symbols on the label.

