

Is plastic all bad?

Worksheet 1 Teacher's notes

1. Think of all the everyday things we use that are made of plastic. What are they ? Can you think of any alternatives for those objects that are made from natural materials?

students' own answers

2. Go online and look up what plastic is.

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/kidsgogreen/fact-zone/plastic-facts>

<http://www.wisegeek.org/how-is-plastic-made.htm>

<http://www.highlightskids.com/science-questions/how-plastic-made-petroleum>

Plastic is any synthetic or semi-synthetic organic polymer. While plastics may be made from just about any organic polymer, most industrial plastic is made from petrochemicals. Thermoplastics and thermosetting polymers are the two types of plastic.

3. We use a lot of plastic bottles and plastic bags. Check how long does it take for these containers to decompose.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/science-vs-myth/everyday-myths/how-long-does-it-take-for-plastics-to-biodegrade.htm>

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/trash/documents/marine_debris.pdf

plastic bag-10-20 years, plastic bottle- 450 years

4. Go online <http://stopplasticbagsnow.weebly.com> and read about a campaign to stop the use of plastic bags.

Do you have any ideas how to reduce the use of plastic disposable bags when we go shopping ? Design a linen bag you would love to go shopping with :

students' own answers and ideas

5. How can we stop using plastic bottles? Try to come up with some ideas in pairs.

<http://www.banthebottle.net/articles/10-startling-facts-about-bottled-water/>

students' own answers and ideas

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6. However, there are some great uses of plastic bottles. Can you come up with some ideas how to reuse your plastic bottle?

Watch a video about a clever use of plastic bottle in Uganda:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RghshcPU7I0> and take notes.

students' own answers and ideas

7. At home make school posters encouraging students to stop using plastic bags and buying bottled water.

students' own answers and ideas