

Skimming and Scanning: Plastic Pollution

Skimming and scanning is a useful skill for finding important information in a text quickly. Skim and scan this passage of text to find the words in the box below.

Tick each word once you have found it.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> increasing | <input type="radio"/> useful | <input type="radio"/> trapped | <input type="radio"/> scientists |
| <input type="radio"/> oceans | <input type="radio"/> chemicals | <input type="radio"/> drinking water | <input type="radio"/> normal bin |

The amount of plastic on our planet is increasing and it is damaging the environment, wildlife and our health. Large amounts of plastic rubbish is thrown away every year and this ends up on land and in oceans.

Uses of Plastic

Plastic can be useful. It is used to make all sorts of everyday items such as food containers and toys. Look around you and you will see many things which are made of plastic.

Dangers of Plastic

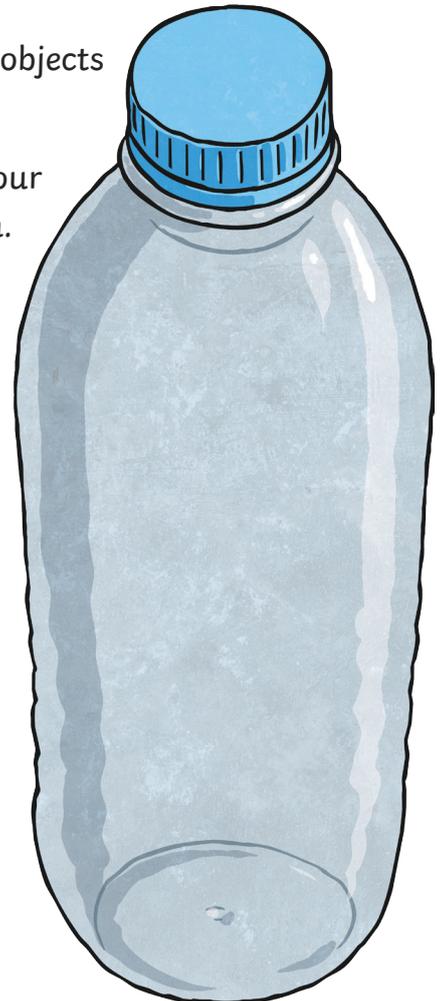
Although Plastic can be useful, it can also be dangerous. Plastic is made of oil and chemicals. Plastics that are left in landfills or in our oceans give out these harmful chemicals. This can then damage the environment and the wildlife that lives in it.

Animals and marine creatures can become trapped in plastic objects which then make it hard for them to move, eat or even breathe.

Humans are affected by plastic pollution too. Plastic is found in our drinking water. Even food that we eat may have plastic chemicals in. We do not know exactly how plastic affects humans but scientists believe that it is not good for our health.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle

There are lots of things that we can all do to help end plastic pollution. We need to reduce the amount of plastic that we use. We need to reuse plastic items that we already have. And finally, we need to recycle plastic instead of throwing it in the normal bin.



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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> flexible | <input type="radio"/> consequences | <input type="radio"/> impact |
| <input type="radio"/> syringes | <input type="radio"/> entangled | <input type="radio"/> takeaway cups |
| <input type="radio"/> chemicals | <input type="radio"/> contaminated | <input type="radio"/> recycling centre |

Use a dictionary to check the meaning of any unknown words.

Plastic pollution is increasing and is damaging the world's environment. Tons of plastic rubbish is thrown away every year and this ends up polluting both land and oceans.

History of Plastic

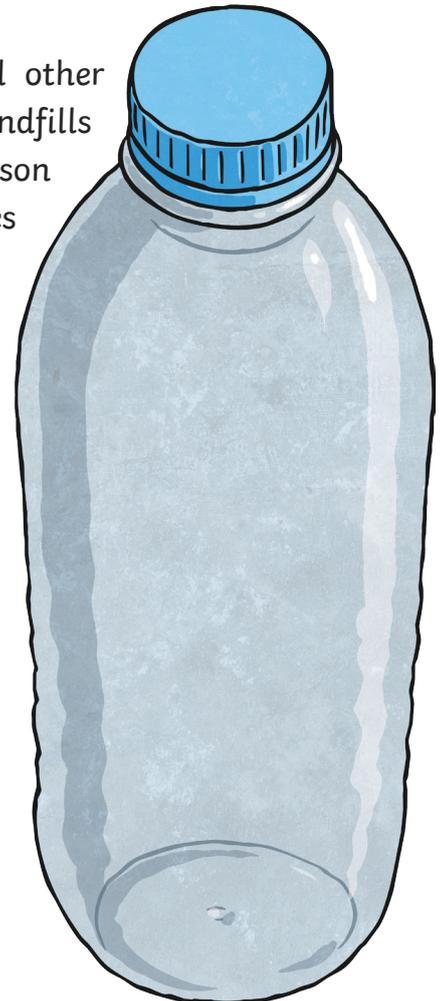
Plastic is a useful resource. It is lightweight, flexible and can be moulded into any shape. Look around you and you will see plastic products being used every day. Plastic is used to make food containers, bins, toys, syringes and hundreds of other items. Plastic bags were first used in supermarkets in the 1960s and are used worldwide by many supermarkets and shops.

Dangers of Plastic

Plastic however, can be dangerous. Plastic is made of oil and other chemicals which help it keep its shape. Plastics that are left in landfills or in our oceans give out these harmful chemicals which then poison the surrounding environment. This can have deadly consequences for wildlife that lives in these affected areas.

Animals and marine creatures can become entangled in plastic objects which then make it hard (and sometimes impossible) for them to move, eat or even breathe.

Human health is also affected by plastic pollution. Plastic chemicals are finding their way into our drinking water and the fish that we eat may also be contaminated. Scientists do not yet fully understand how plastic pollution affects humans but evidence suggests that it does have a negative impact on our health.



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Reduce. Reuse. Recycle

We all need to act now to help reduce plastic pollution and there are lots of things that we can do to help.

We need to reduce the amount of plastic that we use. Avoid using straws and plastic takeaway cups and say no to plastic bags at supermarkets. Take a fabric bag instead. We need to reuse plastic items that we already have. Wash plastic bottles and refill them. Use a lunch box instead of wrapping food in clingfilm. And finally, recycle plastic instead of throwing it in the normal bin. Use recycling boxes or take your plastic to a recycling centre so that it doesn't end up in a landfill site or in the ocean.



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- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> polluting | <input type="radio"/> entangled |
| <input type="radio"/> moulded | <input type="radio"/> contaminated |
| <input type="radio"/> syringes | <input type="radio"/> consumption |
| <input type="radio"/> retailers | <input type="radio"/> fabric |
| <input type="radio"/> poison | <input type="radio"/> recycling centre |

Time taken: _____

Now, write a glossary for at least three words from this list. Use a dictionary to help you.

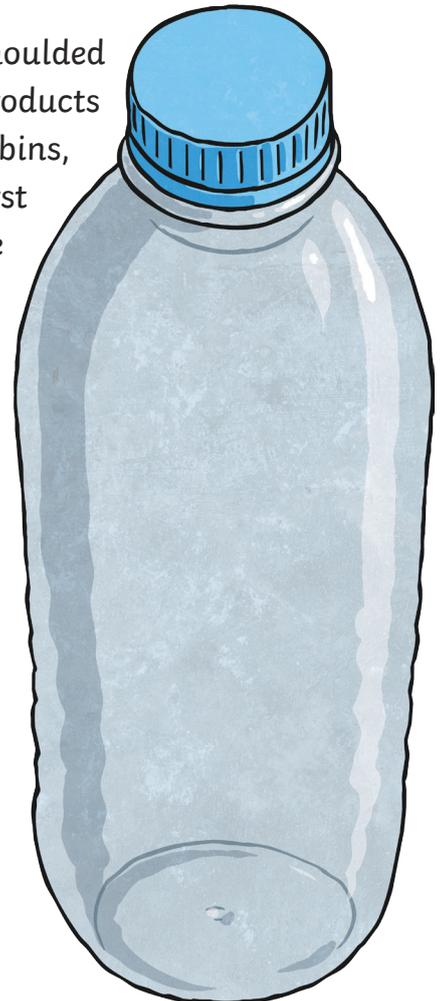
Plastic pollution is the build-up of plastic in the environment. The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing and plastic pollution is damaging wildlife and human health. Tons of plastic rubbish is thrown away every year and this ends up polluting both land and oceans.

History of Plastic

Plastic is a useful resource. It is lightweight, flexible and can be moulded into any shape. Look around you and you will see plastic products being used every day. Plastic is used to make food containers, bins, toys, syringes and hundreds of other items. Plastic bags were first introduced into supermarkets in the 1960s and are used worldwide by many supermarkets and retailers. In 2013, supermarkets in the UK gave out over 7.4 billion plastic bags to customers. Since October 2015 however, customers are charged 5p per plastic bag which may reduce the number of bags that are produced.

Dangers of Plastic

Although plastic is a useful material, it can also be a very dangerous one. Plastic is made of oil and other chemicals which help them keep their shape. Plastics that are left in landfills or in our oceans release these harmful chemicals which then poison and damage the surrounding environment. This can have deadly consequences for wildlife that lives in these contaminated areas.



Skimming and Scanning: Plastic Pollution

Leaking chemicals is not the only danger posed by plastic pollution. Animals and marine creatures can become entangled in plastic objects which then make it hard (and sometimes impossible) for them to move, eat or even breathe.

Human health is affected by plastic pollution too. Plastic particles are finding their way into our drinking water and even the food that we eat, such as fish, may be contaminated. The effects of microplastic consumption on humans is not fully understood although evidence suggests that it does have a negative impact on our health.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle

There are 6.3 billion tons of plastic waste on Earth. We all need to act now to help reduce this number and there are lots of things that we can do to help end plastic pollution.

We need to reduce the amount of plastic that we use. Avoid using straws and plastic takeaway cups and say no to plastic bags at supermarkets. Take a fabric bag instead. We need to reuse plastic items that we already have. Wash plastic bottles and refill them. Avoid wrapping food in clingfilm; use a lunch box and wash it after use. And finally, recycle plastic instead of throwing it in the normal bin. Use recycling boxes or take your plastic to a recycling centre so that it doesn't end up in a landfill site or in the ocean.

