

THE FACTS ABOUT PLASTIC

WHAT IS PLASTIC?

Plastic is a material created by humans.

Question: what are some examples of things you use made of plastic?

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



 Single-use plastics are made to be used 1 time then thrown away.

Question: Where do you normally put plastic once you are done with it?

 Most plastic that has ever been made still sits in landfills.

PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN



- By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish!
- Animal are now living in the Great Pacific Garbage
 Patch meaning that they are consuming the plastic waste.



THE FACTS ABOUT: PLASTIC

Glossary

Landfill: A designated area for the disposal of solid *trash* or *waste*, often buried under layers of soil.

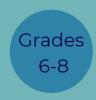
Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A large area of floating plastic Pacific Ocean

Plastic: A s material made from *polymers*, a strong material.

Single-Use Plastic: Plastic items designed for a single use before being thrown away such as bags, straws, and bottles.

Waste: Unwanted or discarded materials, also known as trash





THE FACTS ABOUT

PLASTIC

History of Plastic

- Plastic is a material created by in New York in 1907.
- Belgian-American chemist Leo Baekeland created Bakelite, the first plastic.

Plastic Waste

- More than 8.3 billion metric tons (9.1 billion US tons) of nonrecycled plastic has been produced to date.
- Plastics are non biodegradable. This means that the materials used for plastic production are oil and natural gas.
- When plastics end up in landfills, they aren't harmless. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways called *microplastics*.

Plastic in the Ocean

- At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year.
- Microplastics in different forms are present in almost all water systems in the world, be they streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans.
- There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way.





THE FACTS ABOUT: PLASTIC

Glossary

Landfill: A designated area for the disposal of solid **waste**, often buried under layers of soil.

Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A large area of floating plastic debris in the North Pacific Ocean, primarily composed of *microplastics*.

Plastic: A synthetic material made from *polymers*, known for its durability and versatility.

Single-Use Plastic: Plastic items designed for a single use before being discarded, such as bags, straws, and bottles.

Waste: Unwanted or discarded materials, often generated from human activities.



History of Plastic

- Plastic is a material created by in New York in 1907.
- Belgian-American chemist Leo Baekeland created Bakelite, the first plastic.

Plastic Waste

- More than 8.3 billion metric tons (9.1 billion US tons) of virgin (non-recycled) plastic has been produced to date.
- Plastics are non biodegradable. This means that the materials used for plastic production are oil and natural gas.
- When plastics end up in landfills, they aren't harmless. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways called *microplastics*.

Plastic and Health

- Bisphenol A also known as BPA, used to make billions of plastic beverage containers, dinnerware, protective linings of food cans and toys, is considered an endocrine disruptor, meaning it can both decrease or increase endocrine activity in humans and cause adverse health effects.
- BPA is able to be absorbed by fat tissue, and is associated with increased risk of breast cancer.





Plastic and the Ocean

- At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year.
- Microplastics in different forms are present in almost all water systems in the world, be they streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans.
- There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way.
- In 2018, a huge survey of the 159 coral reefs across Asia-Pacific region showed that over 11.1 billion plastic particles are entangling the corals.

Additional Resources:



Video on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch



Article on Amount of Fish and Plastics in our Oceans



Article on Plastic Pollution

