

LI: To understand sustainability and the impact of plastic pollution.

What is pollution

Pollution is when chemicals, gases, smoke or other harmful materials are introduced to, and damage, the environment.

Pollution can be caused by many different things such as the burning of fossil fuels.



Glossary

fossil fuels: Coal, oil and gas used to power factories, cars and homes.

Sustainability and plastics



Watch clip: Sustainability and plastics

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zshp34j/articles/z6m7vk7>

Plastic

In recent times, there has been growing concern about the damage that plastic is doing to the environment.

Plastic is versatile and cheap to make, so it is used to make lots of things. It is quite easy to tell when some items are plastic, such as drinks bottles and shopping bags.



Where Is Plastic Found?

Plastic can be found in some surprising places:

- Some shampoos, face washes and toothpaste have plastic in them.
- Clothes made from material like nylon, polyester and lycra come from plastic.
- The outside of golf and tennis balls are made from plastic.



Glossary

versatile: Can be used in lots of different ways.

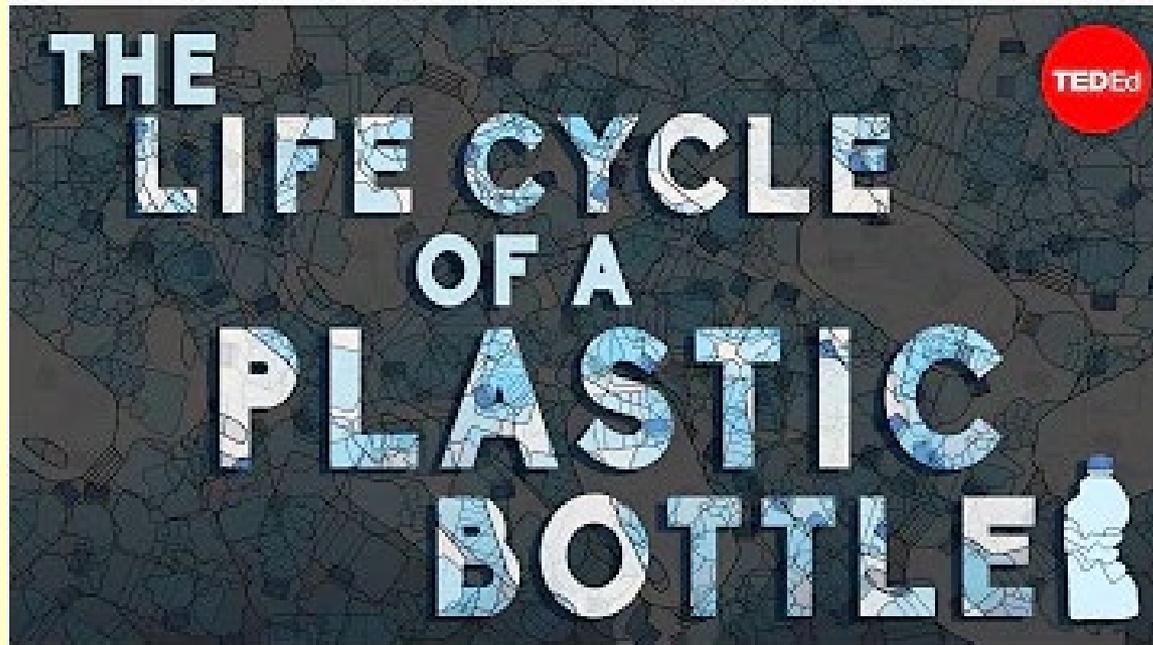
The plastic problem



Watch clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RDc2opwg0I>

What really happens to the plastic we throw away.



Watch clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xINyWPpB8>

Why Does Plastic Damage the Environment?

The main problem with plastic is that it takes an extremely long time to decompose. A plastic bottle can last for up to 500 years. That means that a bottle dropped in the ocean or put in a landfill site today could still be there in the year 2518!

Plastic has toxins in it that are harmful to wildlife.

Glossary

decompose: Rot, decay, break down.

landfill site: Rubbish sites where refuse is buried underground.

toxins: Poisonous substances.



Why Does Plastic Damage Oceans?

Sea creatures can get stuck in plastic bags or the rings that hold drinks cans together. This can cause suffocation, starvation (because they can't get to food), or means that they cannot escape predators.

Sea turtles sometimes confuse plastic bags with jellyfish and eat them. This damages their insides and they can die. Around 70% of dead sea turtles are found to have eaten plastic.

Did You Know...?

- It is thought that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the seas.
- 99% of seabirds have eaten plastic.



A Plastic Ocean



Official trailer to 'A plastic Ocean'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zrn4-FfbXw>