



Plastic Pollution

Year 5



Knowing More, Remembering More

Remembering previous learning

How is plastic helpful? Plastic is used to make many things because it is strong, lightweight, and can be made into many different shapes. Plastic can last a long time.

How is plastic harmful? If people litter, this ends up being washed down drains and into rivers which then flow out into the ocean. This is dangerous for ocean animals as they get injured by plastic waste or accidentally swallow it.

What is single-use plastic? They can only be used once before they are thrown away or recycled, such as plastic bags and straws.

Can all plastics be recycled? Nearly all types of plastics can be recycled but it is not always that easy.

How do you know whether an object is recyclable or not? Objects will have these labels.

How can you test the hardness of a material? A harder material will scratch a softer material.

What is an electrical conductor? A material that allows electricity to flow through it, such as metals.

What is an electrical insulator? A material that does not allow electricity to flow through it. Such as plastic, wood and paper.

What is a thermal insulator? A material that prevents heat passing through it.

In this unit children will...

- Explore the causes of plastic pollution.
- Gain an understanding of how plastic can be a useful material but that its properties mean that it can take hundreds of years to break down and this can be harmful to the environment.

Working Scientifically:

5.10 Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions.

5.12 Use scientific evidence to answer questions.

Key Learning Steps:

1. What is plastic pollution?
2. What are the impacts of plastic pollution on the planet?

Key Vocabulary:

- plastic
- habitat
- plastic pollution
- landfill
- pollution
- microplastics



Key Scientists and Sustainability Champions:

Contemporary

Pope Francis

In his encyclical, Laudato Si, Pope Francis encourages us all to be better stewards of creation and take better care of our world.

Contemporary

Team Seas - A charity campaigning to remove plastic and trash from the ocean.

Contemporary

World Wildlife Fund - A charity leading the fight against plastic pollution.

Knowing More, Remembering More

Knowing more in Y5

What are the properties of plastics? Plastics are man-made materials that are often strong, lightweight and can be used to make plastic bottles, carrier bags and containers. Plastics are designed to last a very long time and do not break down easily.

Where can plastic waste end up? Plastics can end up in landfill sites as well as the oceans. This has an impact on animal and plant life.

What are microplastics? These are tiny pieces of plastic.

How can microplastics be harmful? They can be eaten by animals.

How can we reduce the impact of plastic pollution in the local area? Use recyclable plastics, reusable bottles, wearing clothes made with natural fibres and not using plastic bags.