

# PLASTIC IS NOT FANTASTIC



It's long-lasting, cheap to produce and very useful, but plastic is causing huge damage to our incredible planet.



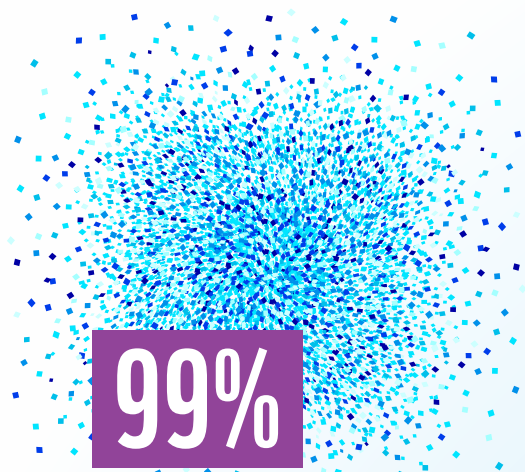
385

There are **358 items of litter** per square km on Britain's sea floor (on average).

## RECYCLING FAILS



Although many people try hard to recycle plastics, only 9% is actually recycled. So it's better not to use them at all. Around **33% of all plastics** find their way into fragile ecosystems, like rivers and oceans.



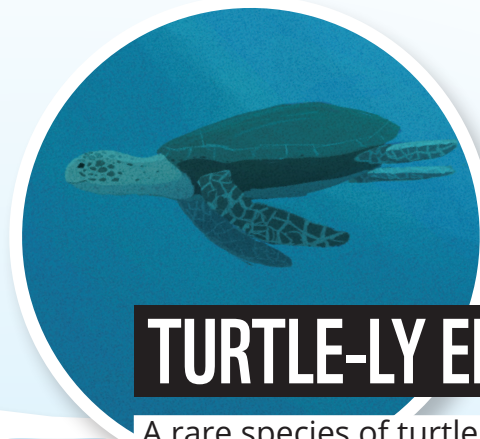
99%

Once it's in water, plastic breaks up into small particles called microplastics. By 2050 **microplastics could be found in 99% of all seabird species.**



2050

By 2050, oceans could contain more plastic than fish.

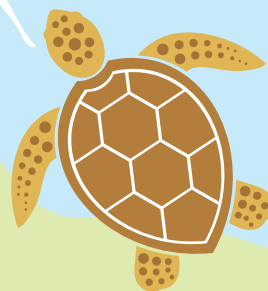


## TURTLE-LY EPIC!

A rare species of turtle hatched on a beach in Mumbai after volunteers spent **two years** clearing tonnes of plastic. Turtles hadn't been seen there for decades before people worked together to clean up.

## TUMMY ACHE

Animals can mistake plastic rubbish for food, get tangled in packaging or old fishing lines, or choke on plastic-clogged water.



## MORE, MORE, MORE

We are producing around **20 times more plastic** than we did 50 years ago and this could double again in the next 20 years.



## A LOT OF BOTTLE

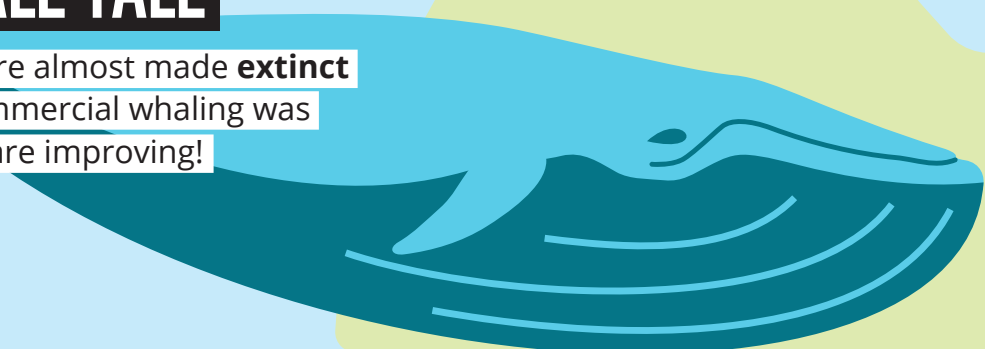
Globally, **one million** plastic water bottles are used every minute and 91% of them are not recycled.

400

It takes **400 years for a plastic water bottle to degrade.** That's why single-use plastic items (like plastic straws, bottles and bags) are particularly bad – sometimes they're only used for seconds, but they stick around for centuries.

## A HAPPY WHALE TALE

Some types of whale were almost made **extinct** by hunting but since commercial whaling was banned, their numbers are improving!



## WE CAN FIGHT AGAINST PLASTIC!

**There are lots of ways you and your group can help – ask your leader to find out more.**