



Bingo download facts Oceans of plastic

Name:

Class:

We dump eight million tons of plastic into the sea every year

Plastics often contain additives to make them stronger and more durable. These additives can extend the life of products if they become litter which means that if they find their way into the environment, they can take hundreds of years to break down

Most of the plastic in our oceans flows from the land. Waste is also carried by our rivers which collect more and more waste as they move towards the sea. When at sea, waste becomes caught up in ocean currents and can be transported around the world

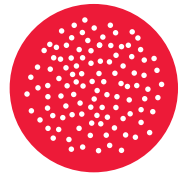
Once at sea, wind, the action of the waves and the sunlight break down the plastic waste into small pieces. These are known as microplastics and spread throughout the oceans. Microplastics have been found in every corner of the planet, from Mount Everest to the deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench

Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year. Nearly 700 species are known to have been affected by plastics and almost every species of seabird has eaten plastics. Many animals die after becoming tangled in discarded plastic and others are strangled by abandoned fishing gear

The equivalent of a truckload of plastic enters the oceans every minute

Drink companies alone produce over 500 billion single-use plastic bottles every year

There are five trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans – enough to circle the Earth over 400 times



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