

Plastic Planet - KS1

Let's explore how much plastic we make, how much we throw away and where it ends up

- Every day we use things made from plastic.
Probably far more than you might think.
As a planet, we buy 1 million bottles every minute!



- You probably have a few plastic bottles around you right now. You have two minutes to count how many plastic bottles you can find in your house or classroom! (Don't forget the bathroom)

How many did you find?

- A lot of the plastic in our homes and schools will be used once then thrown away, these are called 'single-use plastic'. We are surrounded by these items every day. Not just drinks bottles but straws, shopping bags, shampoo bottles, coffee cups and crisp packets.

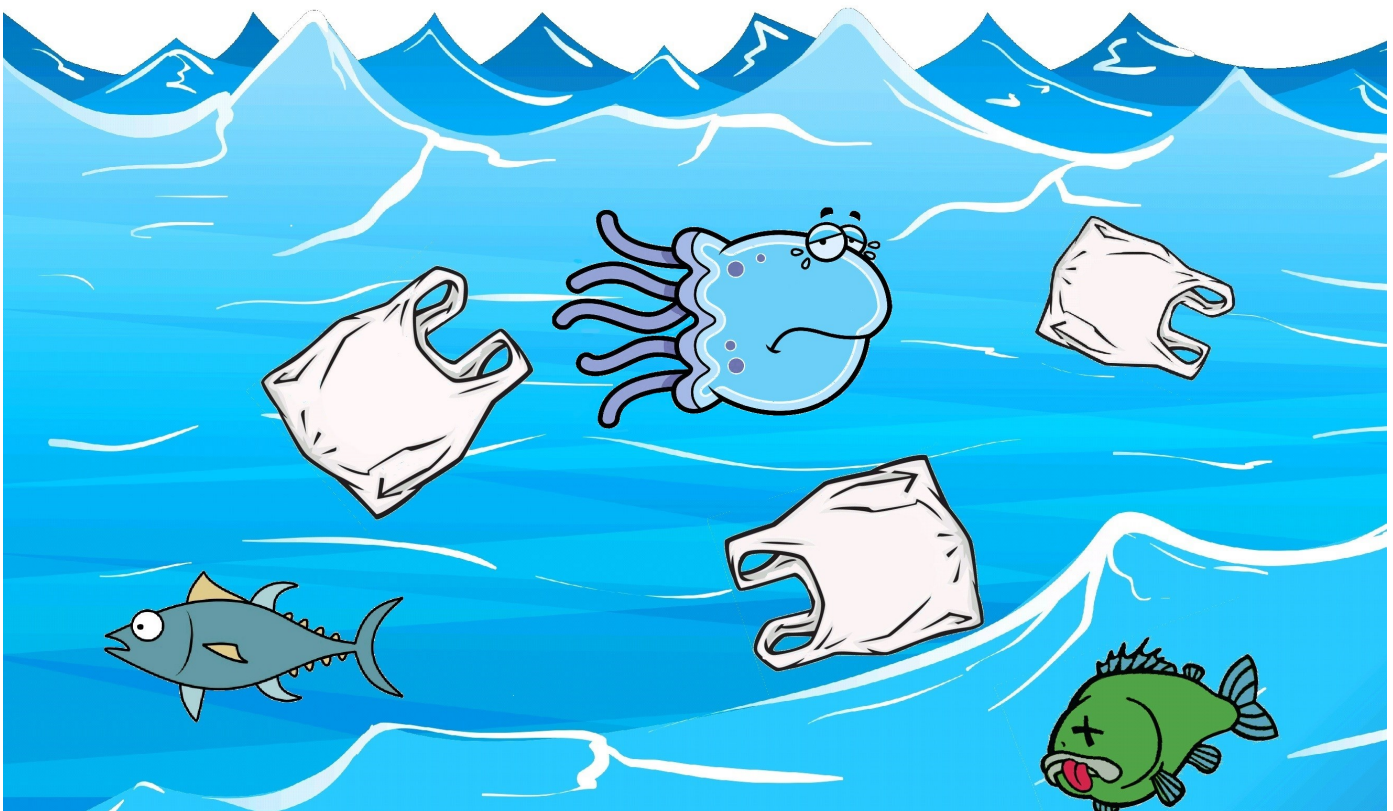
We use a lot of plastic day to day but where does it actually go when we are done with it?

- Items such as plastic bottles, pots and trays go into your recycling bin and picked up by bin lorries that bring them to the recycling centre to use the material to make something brand new.
- Plastic crisp packets, straws and bags can't be recycled so they need to go in the black bin bag. Since we can't recycle these items the best thing to do is to try to use less of them.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Plastic in our oceans

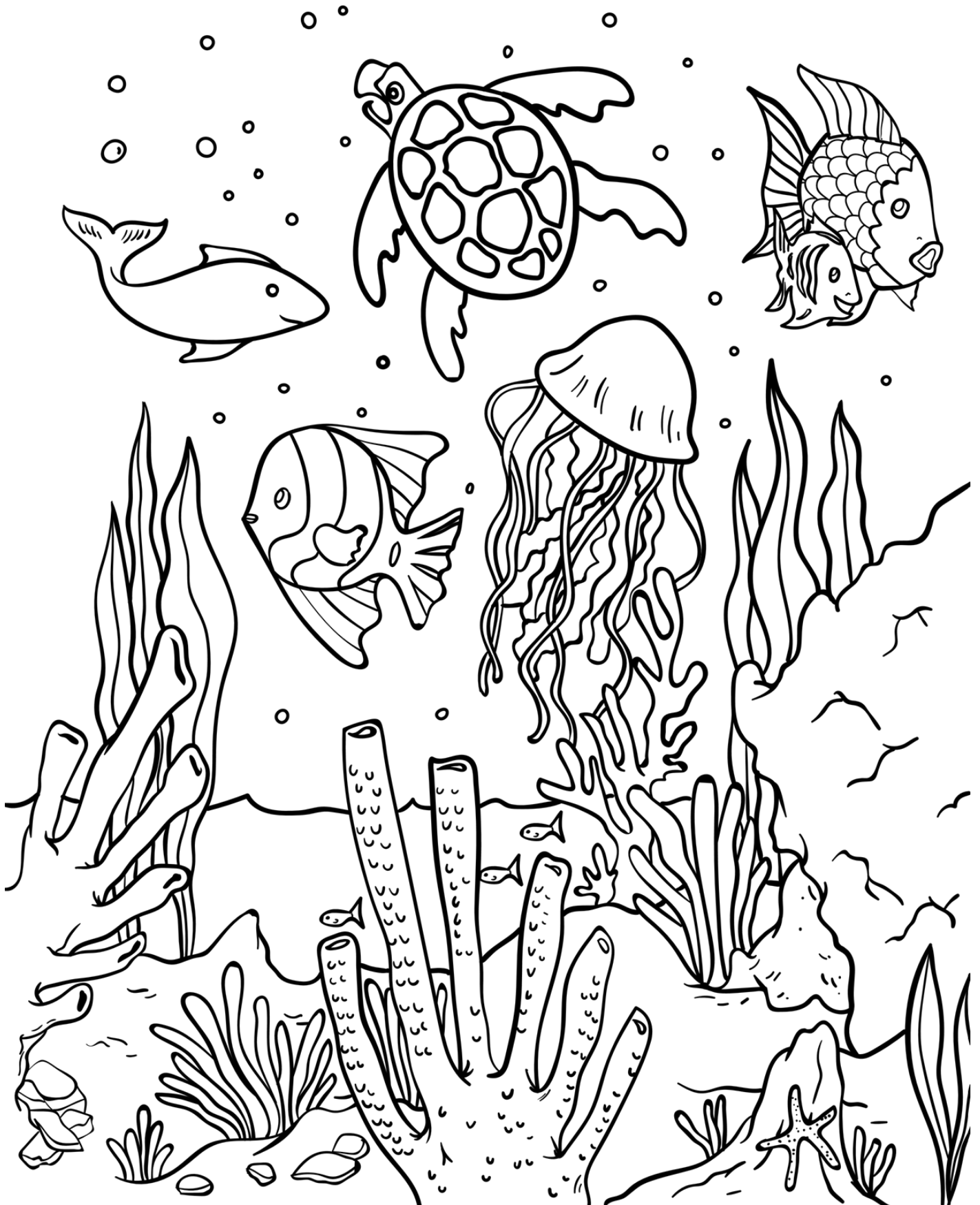
- However if we are not careful with our rubbish it can become a serious problem for our planet. If people litter, just dropping their bottles and crisp packets on the ground, they end up being washed down drains and into rivers which then flow out into the ocean. This is dangerous for ocean animals as they get injured by plastic waste or accidentally swallow it. Often rubbish can stay floating in the ocean for long periods of time.



On the next page is an image of a beautiful clean ocean scene with animals and plants safe in a ocean without any plastic rubbish.

- See if you can name what animals are in the picture and if you have a printer you can colour it in to make it really stand out!
- Or you could think of your favourite sea creature, see if you can draw it and make it really colourful!

Reduce, reuse, recycle



Reduce, reuse, recycle

So how can you help?

Three simple ways to help limit single use plastic waste and look after our planet are the 3Rs

 reduce

 reuse

 recycle

Reducing our waste just means to throw less away.

Reuse means to use something again.

Recycling is when we take your special recycling bin away and use your waste materials to make something brand new



Reduce, reuse, recycle

So how can you help?

Here are some ideas for how you could use the 3Rs to help.

Tick the ones you, your family or your school do already or could plan to do in the future. Write down any other ideas you can think of!

- Buy loose fruit and veg rather than packaged
- Buy food in bulk rather than in small packets e.g. bags of rice
- Ask for drinks without straws at cafés or shops
- Use soap that doesn't come in a plastic bottle

- Reuse water bottles when you want a drink (also saves you money!)
- Swap to a thick plastic or metal bottle that will last longer
- Reuse your bags when shopping or get a 'bag for life'
- Pack a lunch box rather than carrying food in a plastic bag
- Ask your school not to use plastic plates or cutlery
- Chose cardboard packaging over plastic if shops have a choice

- Make sure plastic tubs and pots are clean before going in the recycling
- Tell your family that crisp packets and plastic bags can't be recycled
- Makes sure your school has recycling bins in each class
- Make a poster to show what can and can't be recycled
- Reuse plastic for craft rather than throwing it away
- Make sure your friends and family know not to litter!
- Write a school newsletter to help other learn about the 3Rs

Reduce, reuse, recycle

If your pupils have any photos of their work, feel free to share them with us on Twitter at @WRWArecycling

We love seeing what schools have come up with!

Links to further reading to learn more

BBC 'Plastic Watch'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/11CnCQR0GJfkDgJs57sR5Ps/war-on-plastic>

'WRAP' Plastic Pact

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/the-uk-plastics-pact>

'Recycle now' Plastic Recycling

<https://www.recyclenow.com/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/how-is-it-recycled/plastics>