

What is the problem with plastic?



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-the-regenerators-what-is-the-problem-with-plastic/zdxddp3>

Play your chosen music and display the image of rubbish on a beach:

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/plastic_pollution.jpg

2. Introduction

Display the image of rubbish on a beach and encourage pupils to identify different items. How many different plastic objects can they spot? What else do they think is there? Ask: **How do you think all these things got to the beach?** Gather pupils' responses and establish that, unless we take care, a lot of what we throw away finally ends up in the sea. Much of this rubbish, especially plastic, will stay around for hundreds of years unless we do something about it. Introduce the video.

3. Play the video

Play the video. The duration is 02' 23" and the final words are: '...and no more 400-year old bananas in the sea.'

4. Time to talk

Lead a discussion by posing questions such as:

- **Why is recycling so important?**
- **What stops people recycling things?**
- **Why do we throw so much stuff away?**
- **How can we reduce the amount that we use and get everyone to recycle more?**

You could suggest that as a follow-up to the assembly pupils (and teachers) explore The Regenerators website, including lesson ideas for:

- **children aged 5 to 7**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/regenerators-lessons-age-5-to-7/1>

- **children aged 7 to 11**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/regenerators-lessons-age-7-to-11/1>

Ask: **'Is there something you could do to help recycle plastic or to reduce plastic waste?'** Encourage pupils to suggest things they could do.

Play video



5. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

6. Opportunity to reflect

Our world is full of beauty...full of animals...and trees...and plants...and great wide oceans...

But it is fragile too and easily damaged...

Today, let's all think of ways to keep our beautiful planet healthy and unpolluted, for the animals and plants and children of tomorrow...

Or use the animated poem in the 'Key resources' section. The video explains why plastic pollution is harmful and how to reduce it.

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', etc) and:

'We thank you for our beautiful world, with its animals and trees and plants and great wide oceans.

We know it is fragile and easily damaged.

Help us today to find ways to keep our beautiful world healthy and unpolluted, for the animals and plants and children of tomorrow. Amen.'