

What is the problem with plastic?



1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage](#) open. Play any entry music and display the image of [rubbish on a beach](#).

2. Introduction

Draw pupils' attention to the picture of rubbish on a beach and encourage them 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

Duration: 2' 23". Final words: '...400-year-old bananas in the sea.'

4. After the video - 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:

Pupils aged 5 to 7:

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

Pupils 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.



Webpage with video

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song. Suggestions on the webpage.

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

Follow your standard address (eg 'Dear God', 'Dear Lord', 'Let us pray,' etc) with:

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.