

LESSON ONE WORKSHEET

PLASTIC POLLUTION

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF MARINE DEBRIS? GIVE AT LEAST ONE EXAMPLE:

MARINE DEBRIS IS ANY HUMAN-MADE WASTE THAT ENDS UP IN THE OCEAN.

IT INCLUDES A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIALS SUCH AS PLASTICS, GLASS, METAL, RUBBER, AND MORE. COMMON TYPES OF MARINE DEBRIS INCLUDE PLASTIC BOTTLES, BAGS, FISHING NETS, CIGARETTE BUTTS, AND FOOD WRAPPERS. (ANY EXAMPLE OF RUBBISH LISTED IS CORRECT)

WHAT DECADE WAS PLASTIC FIRST PRODUCED COMMERCIALY?

PLASTIC WAS FIRST PRODUCED COMMERCIALY IN THE EARLY 1950S

TRUE OR FALSE: PLASTIC PRODUCTION HAS DECREASED OVER THE YEARS

FALSE, PLASTIC PRODUCTION HAS GROWN, NOW WE PRODUCE MORE THAN 380 MILLIONS TONNES EACH YEAR

MATCH THE YEAR TO THE EVENT IN THE PLASTIC TIMELINE

2004	PLASTIC WASTE FIRST OBSERVED IN OCEAN
1935-54	NATURAL RUBBER DISCOVERED
2010s	TERM 'MICROPLASTIC' FIRST COINED
1960	PET, PE, PP, ACRYLIC AND STYROFOAM INVENTED
1839	FIRST 'GARBAGE PATCH' DISCOVERED
1997	SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE ON MICROPLASTIC IN THE OCEAN GROWS

NAME THREE ADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC

CHEAP, LIGHTWEIGHT, STRONG, EASY TO CREATE, VERSATILE,
LONG LASTING, SANITARY & MORE

**HOW MANY MILLION TONNES OF PLASTIC ENTERS THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT EVERY YEAR?**

8 MILLION TONNES

WHAT IS A GARBAGE PATCH IN RELATION TO MARINE DEBRIS?

A GARBAGE PATCH IS A LARGE AREA IN THE OCEAN WHERE PLASTIC
AND OTHER DEBRIS ACCUMULATE DUES TO CURRENTS.

TRUE OR FALSE: PLASTIC CAN NEGATIVELY AFFECT MARINE LIFE

TRUE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE ENTANGLEMENT IN NETS, INGESTION OF
PLASTIC, AND HERMIT CRABS USING PLASTIC AS SHELLS.

**IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, WHERE IS MOST OF THE PLASTIC COMING
FROM? AND HOW IS IT GETTING THERE?**

MOST MARINE DEBRIS WASHING UP ON NORTHEAST ARNHEM LAND'S
SHORES COMES FROM COUNTRIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION,
ESPECIALLY SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT IS CARRIED BY TIDES, WINDS, AND
CURRENTS, WITH THE WORST ARRIVING TOWARD THE END OF THE SE
TRADE WIND SEASON (MAY–OCTOBER).

**WHAT ARE THE FOUR MAIN SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF
PLASTIC WASTE IN THE OCEAN?**

RECYCLING, ALTERNATIVES, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION