

# Plastic age

**A** Think about your morning routine at home or about your first lesson at school. Write down the names of all the objects that you use. e.g. a toothbrush, a comb, a pen, a ruler....

**B** Now, group the above objects according to the material they are made of.

wooden	metal	plastic / nylon	other

What does the chart tell you? Can you draw any conclusions from it?

**C** Enter the word plastic into your search engine, learn more about this material, its characteristics and share your findings with the class.

## **D Reading:**

We live in a time of abundance. Shops and supermarkets are filled with different products that we buy without even thinking whether we really need them and what kind of material they were made of. Our homes, classrooms, desks, cars, terraces, there are so many things that we use on a daily basis. All sorts of crayons, coloured pens and pencils, highlighters, files, not to mention all the items that we use for our personal hygiene. Eventually, these items are thrown away and they become waste. Almost all of them are made of plastic which is not an organic material. This means that it does not decompose, it stays in the ground for a long period of time. Scientists say that it can take centuries for a plastic bag to decompose.

But this is not the only problem. Thousands tons of plastic waste is not properly disposed of. With heavy rain and storms, this waste gets into rivers and seas. As currents and waves take this material farther away, it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. Tiny pieces of plastic, beads, can be found in personal care products, toothpaste, shower gels and soaps. Synthetic clothing and fishing nets shed over time and produce microfibers which is also a problem.

Many sea animals mistake pieces of nylon and plastic for food and it ends up into their bodies. Smaller pieces of plastic can even enter the blood and stay in the body of the animal. These small pieces of plastic are called microplastic. What do you think happens when you eat the fish?

**E Time to think! Now, that you have read the text, what are your thoughts and feelings. Share them with your class, discuss the ideas.**

**F Many problems can be solved when we start thinking like responsible citizens. Do you have any ideas how we can solve the problem of plastic in our lives? Work with your friends and present your work to the rest of the class.**

Remember! You can help too! Every little thing can help!

It all comes down to 3Rs...reduce, reuse, recycle

#### **REMEMBER**

Many plastic products are single-use items, after their first use they are simply thrown away. Once they are used, they become waste.

#### **Extra activity for extra curious students...**

##### **Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

Where is it located?

How big is it?

Has it got another name?