



PLASTIC IS NOT FANTASTIC!

Single-use plastics are a human addiction that we must face head on. Plastic pollution is not only **impacting** our waters and marine life, but also the human food chain and our overall health.

Plastic is **accumulating** in the world's oceans at a **staggering** rate. An estimated eight million tons of plastic – the equivalent of over 26,600 Boeing 747 planes – are swept into our seas and oceans every single year, mainly via rivers and coastal urban centres, through, for example, **uncaptured waste**, **sewage** systems, road run-off and littering.

This pollution problem is so **ubiquitous** that plastic can be found throughout the **marine** environment – from coastlines and nearshore lagoons to **remote** ocean hotspots where plastics, caught up in ocean currents, are gathered up into huge 'garbage patches' that **swirl** on the ocean surface and many metres below. Plastics are even found in polar ice.

Only twenty percent of the plastic pollution in our seas and oceans comes directly from illegal dumping at sea or commercial fishing activity. The majority enters the oceans from land-based sources of plastic **debris** and even from our very own homes.

These plastics pose a huge danger to sea life, with over 500 marine species known to suffer from **entanglement** in and **consumption** of plastic debris, both of which often prove **fatal**.

To make matters worse, the **durable** nature of plastic means that this material does not **biodegrade** in the ocean. It simply breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces, lingering in the marine environment for centuries.

Plastic is of course, not the only pollutant of our oceans and seas; there are many others. And it's not only oceans and seas affected by plastic and other human **detritus**.

Yes, multinationals and governments have to take action, but each individual must face up to their responsibility.

This is our planet, it's beautiful, let us all, together and individually, protect it.

Read the passage and answer the questions in full sentences:

1. Name four things which plastic pollution is impacting.
2. Is plastic pollution diminishing?
3. Name three ways in which plastic enters the seas and oceans.
4. Name three places where plastic can be found.
5. What percentage of this plastic pollution comes from land-based sources and our own homes?
6. What do 500 marine species suffer from?
7. Is plastic biodegradable?
8. Is plastic the only pollutant of our seas and oceans?
9. Is it just governments and multinational companies that should address the issue of pollution?
10. What does the writer want people to do and why? To what extent do you agree?

Vocabulary: match up the like terms:

Impacting	long-lasting
Accumulate	far away, distant
Staggering	to do with the sea
Ubiquitous	being trapped in
Marine	affecting
Remote	everywhere, all over
Swirl	spiral
Debris	decompose naturally
Entanglement	pieces of rubbish
Fatal	gather and increase
Durable	shocking, disgraceful
Consume	refuse, flotsam
Biodegrade	deadly
Detritus	eat/drink/ingest

Here are 9 things every person can do to help (advice from GREENPEACE). Unscramble the sentences and then decide which ones you can do. Put them in order of importance.

1. reusable Always bottle. a carry
 2. no to straws! Say. You straw. need a don't
 3. Take a with cup coffee reusable you.
 4. put your and plastic vegetables in fruit bags. Don't
 5. refill stations Use detergents for
 6. no to cutlery disposable Say
 7. milk in glass reusable Buy bottles
 8. not buy cosmetics, toothpaste them microbeads and bodyscrubs with in Do
 9. your the shops bags to shopping Take you with
- And:** all have We plastic containers, make them last! let's