

KS2

RAISING READING SKILLS

STUDENT
WORKBOOK

Student name:

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LESSON
03

Questions and signposts

Lesson objective:

Develop your questioning skills. Use signposting to navigate a text and find relevant information.

You are taking on the role of an investigative journalist, and your goal is to research the subject of plastic pollution. Your aim is to decide what information other children in your school should be more aware of.

You will read two texts which will help you to consider the topic of plastic pollution, texts 3a and 3b.



Investigate means to examine something carefully to discover the truth.

Subject being investigated: plastic pollution

Prior knowledge

What do I already know about the subject?

Questions

What questions do I have about the subject?



Select and make notes on the key information/facts. What I found out ...

Text 3a

Text 3b

A summary: what I have learned about plastic pollution

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What questions do I still have?

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Text 3a

Surfers Against Sewage: The Problem with Plastic Pollution

What is plastic pollution?

It's plastic where it shouldn't be. It's in the sea and on the beach and it's causing harm. We're using more plastic than ever, it's durable, cheap to produce and we're consuming it at staggering rates. Current estimates show that at least 8 million pieces of plastic are entering the oceans every single day.

How does it get in the sea?

Two-thirds of it comes straight from land based sources: litter being left on the beach or washed down rivers and drains from litter being dropped in towns and cities. It comes from industry spills, badly managed landfill sites and bins near the coast or by being flushed down the loo. The remainder is lost at sea such as containers going overboard or lost fishing gear.

How much plastic pollution is there?

Approximately 51 trillion microscopic pieces of plastic, weighing 269,000 tons. That is about the same as 1345 adult blue whales. And 500 times the number of stars in our galaxy. I know which I would rather see.

How long does it last?

As we know, plastic is strong, flexible and durable making it extremely useful, however that also means it never really breaks down. A plastic bottle can last for 450 years in the marine environment, slowly fragmenting into smaller and smaller pieces which eventually end up microscopic but never truly go away. This means that every piece of plastic that has ever been produced is still with us, in some form. Yuck!

What harm does plastic pollution do to the environment?

For wildlife such as fish, dolphins, seabirds and seals it can be deadly as they become entangled or mistake it for food. Images from the Midway Atoll have illustrated this problem to shocking effect when photographer Chris Jordan captured the remains of albatross, stomachs full of plastic pieces because they accidentally made a meal from our discarded waste. More recently a Cuvier's beaked whale was found malnourished and dying off the coast of Norway.

Experts had to put the animal down as it was in such poor condition and the autopsy showed a terrifying 30 plastic bags and a large amount of plastic packaging with labels in Danish and English in its stomach and intestines, causing blockages and pain.

Plastic isn't all bad is it?

No, it can be incredibly useful. Diabetics use it for their disposable syringes; arthritic patients have it for their replaced hips; and construction workers wear it to protect their heads. Without it we wouldn't have computers, mobile phones or cars. Essentially, it is vital. The big problem is single use plastics and the quantities in which they are used. A plastic bag for instance is used on average for 15 minutes, yet could take 100 – 300 years to fragment.

Reproduced with permission from Surfers Against Sewage www.sas.org.uk

Text 3b

Greenpeace UK: 9 Ways to reduce your plastic use

9 ways to reduce your plastic use

Simple ways to cut down the amount of plastic we all use, from bags and bottles to straws and packaging.

UPDATED 4th February 2022 - PLASTIC POLLUTION - BLOG

We've all seen the headlines about the huge environmental problems caused by single-use plastics. Governments and corporations have a responsibility to take action - but what can we do to cut down our personal plastic footprints?

Of course, using less plastic is easier for some people than others. For some disabled people, for example, single-use plastic is essential to their health or quality of life. Plastic products should still be available for those who need them. But many of us could easily reduce the amount of plastic we use. Here's our nine top tips:

1. Carry a reusable bottle

In the UK we use over 35 million plastic bottles every day! Carrying a reusable bottle is a great way to cut your plastic use and save money too! There's even an app that tells you where you can refill your bottle for free!

2. Say no to plastic straws

Plastic straws are bad news for our oceans. Next time you order a drink, think about whether you need a straw - and if you don't, just say no! You can also ask your local pub to stop adding straws to drinks as standard and offer paper straws to those who want one.



3. Take a reusable coffee cup

2.5 billion coffee cups are thrown away every year in the UK - and less than 1 in 400 are recycled. Carry a reusable cup with you - some cafes even offer a small discount if you use your own cup (and if they don't ask them why not!)

Greenpeace UK: 9 Ways to reduce your plastic use

4. Avoid excessive food packaging

Whether it's making different choices in the supermarket or choosing a different place to shop, we can all try and cut down the plastic we buy. And as an added bonus, loose fruit and veg is often cheaper than pre-packaged alternatives!



5. Use refill stations for detergents

There are some products where it's difficult to avoid a plastic container (for example washing up liquid or laundry liquid) - the good news is that there are an increasing amount of places where you can refill your old bottles.

6. Say no to disposable plastic cutlery

We've all been there - caught out in a cafe or at a train station when we've bought a salad or a yogurt but the only cutlery on offer is plastic! Whilst it's hard to plan for every opportunity, consider carrying a spoon or fork (or spork!) in your bag or keeping cutlery in your desk at work.



© Lovers / Greenpeace

7. Get your milk delivered

Although the early morning sound of a milk float is not as common as it used to be, there are still lots of places in the UK where you can get milk delivered in glass bottles - which are then collected and reused.

Greenpeace UK: 9 Ways to reduce your plastic use

8. Avoid microbeads

The good news is that the UK government have announced a ban on microbeads! However until the ban comes into force in 2018, there will still be products on the shelves, so keep checking those labels before you buy and avoid products containing polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and nylon.

9. Carry a shopping bag

Since the plastic bag charge was introduced in England, there's been a massive 85% drop in their use. Many of us are used to carrying an extra bag with us - if you still find it hard to remember, try a foldaway one that you can carry in your normal day bag.

Making just a few small changes can have a big impact on the amount of plastic we use on a day-to-day basis.

Greenpeace UK blog by Alice Hunter, www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/9-ways-reduce-plastic-use, used with permission.

Teachit sample

Extension activity

1. Work together to create a specialist glossary for this subject area (including, for example, words like **environment**, **microbeads**, **sustainable**). Then take one word each and write a definition and example sentence using the word.

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OR

2. Read another text on plastic pollution, Text 3c on the next page. It is a newspaper report about a schoolgirl's campaign to scrap plastic toys in magazines. Use this real-life example to write a persuasive paragraph about the importance of this issue.

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Text 3c

Cambrian News online news story

Schoolgirl launches campaign calling on magazines to scrap plastic toys

BY Patrick Hollis 16:49, 18 FEB 2021



A Fairbourne schoolgirl has launched a campaign to stop a publisher's use of plastic toys in its magazines.

Skye Neville, who is 10, has written to Kennedy Publishers to express concern at the amount of plastic used in their publications. She has also started a petition which has received over 2,100 signatures.

Skye said: "I am very concerned by the amount of plastic that is still being produced, thrown away and polluting our oceans and environment.

"This is why I want the magazine and comic publishers to really care for the environment and stop giving away plastic toys with their publications.

"I really enjoy reading the magazines, particularly Horrible Histories, but I just want the magazine, I don't want or need the cheap plastic toys which are either played with for a few minutes or break on

the first use and then are thrown away.

"Any 'gifts' that the magazines offer should be sustainable and ethical so that we can protect our planet for us and future generations."

Skye also received an email from Liz Saville Roberts MP, who asked the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in Parliament what steps the department is taking to restrict the distribution of plastic toys with children's magazines.

Skye added: "I have already written to the publishers, who have replied saying they are 'working very hard to make our magazines more environmentally friendly'.

"They also state that the toys 'can be played with again and again offering enjoyment to lots of children' and that 'the toys can be recycled in some areas'.

"This is not acceptable. McDonald's has recently stopped putting plastic toys in their Happy Meals. If they can do the right thing, so can the publishers."

Kennedy Publishers sent a response to Skye when she contacted them regarding their use of plastic toys in their magazines.

"The publishers said they share Skye's concerns about the effect that plastic has on the environment and offered to take her plastic gifts for them to be recycled.

KS2

RAISING READING SKILLS

TEACHER HANDBOOK

- Structured strategies to improve children's reading skills in Y6
- 12 detailed lesson plans with worksheets and activities
- Supported by an accompanying workbook for children to use in the classroom

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LESSON
03

Questions and signposts

Lesson length: 60 minutes

Lesson objective

Develop questioning skills and use signposting to navigate a text and find relevant information.

Resources needed

Pages 17–23 of the *Raising reading skills* workbook

Text 3a on page 19 – Surfers Against Sewage: 'The Problem with Plastic Pollution'

Text 3b on page 20 – Greenpeace UK: '9 ways to reduce your plastic use'

Tell children they are investigative journalists researching the subject of plastic pollution. They will read several texts during their investigation. Their aim is to decide what information other children in their school should be more aware of.

Starter/introduction

- Before children begin reading, ask them to note down what they already know about plastic pollution on page 17 of the workbook. They should also write down any questions they have about plastic pollution.
- Remind children of the question words they can use: what, who, when, where, how and why.
- Children discuss their questions in pairs as a confidence-building activity – ask for volunteers to share their questions.

Development

1. Ask the class to think about the ways in which plastic can cause problems in the environment.
2. Read **Text 3a**, an information webpage giving facts and figures about plastic pollution. Ask students to use the subheadings as signposts to navigate the text (you may have to explain the meaning of signposts).
3. Students should fill in their notes box on page 18 of the workbook. Ask them to scan the text and underline any key information about plastic pollution. You may need to model this first and remind them of how to take notes (no full sentences, key words, short quotes, arrows, bullet points, etc.).
4. Read **Text 3b** on pages 20-21 of the workbook. This reading can be undertaken in small groups or can be led by you.

Plenary

- Ask children to fill in the final two boxes on page 18 of their workbook: 'A summary: what I have learned about plastic pollution' and 'What questions do I still have?'.
- Ask some children to share their summaries/questions.

Extension/homework ideas

- Children work together to create a specialist glossary for this subject area (for example words like *environment*, *microbeads*, *sustainable*). They take one word each and write a definition and example. These could then be combined for a wall display.
- Children could read another text on plastic pollution, **Text 3c**, which is a newspaper article about a girl campaigning to scrap plastic toys in magazines, provided in the workbook, on page 24. They could use this real-life example to write a persuasive paragraph about the importance of this issue.