



**Is Plastic
Fantastic?**

**This booklet is dedicated
to all living creatures, the mystery of
the depths, and the magic of nature.**



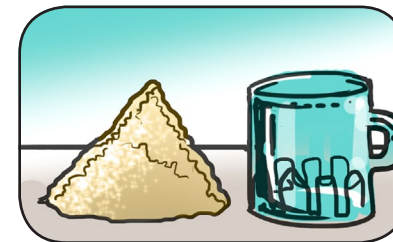
*Do you know
what these
materials are
made from?*

Paper?



Paper is made from wood.

Glass?



Glass is made from sand.

Plastic?

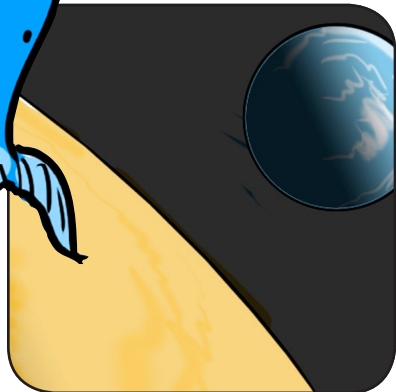


Plastic is made from oil.

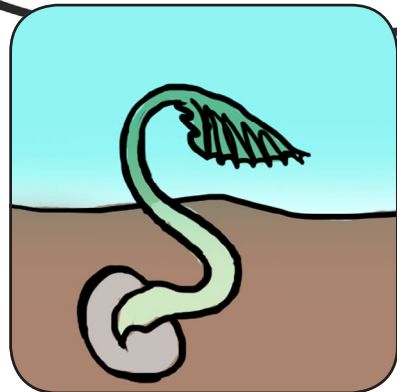
...But, do you know what oil is made from?



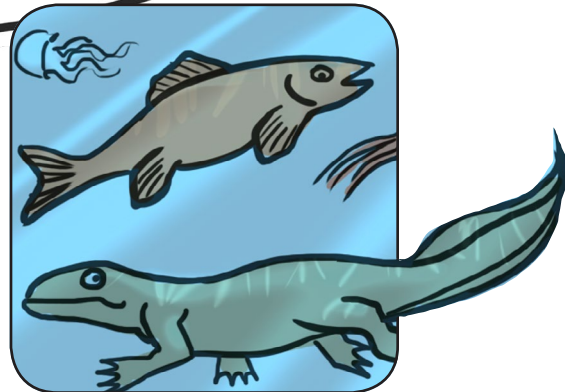
It all started long ago...



It took 3.8 billion years for life to evolve on earth.



600 million years ago plants appeared.



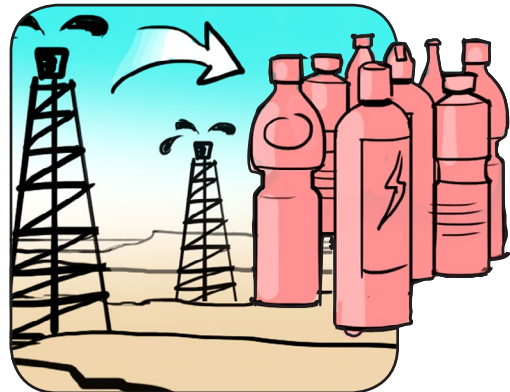
Then life in the seas, oceans, and lakes appeared.



Then came the great dinosaurs and the first mammals...



and when all the dinosaurs and plants died, the earth compressed them and changed them into oil...

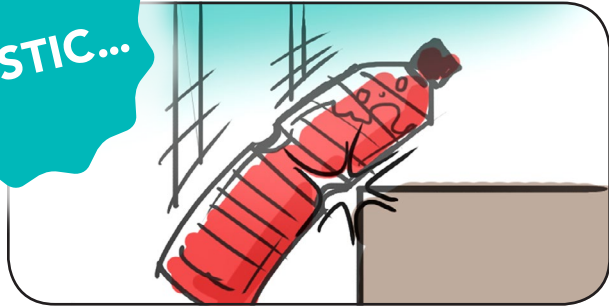


and this oil—called petroleum—is what we use to make plastic.

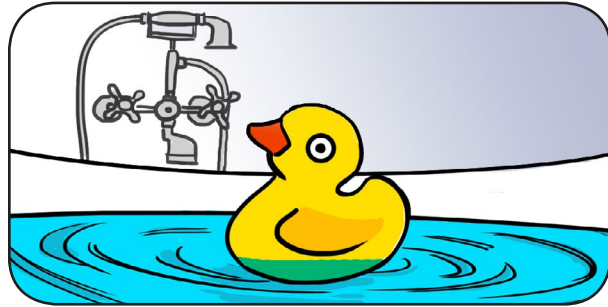
So we take oil—which was made from plants and dinosaurs that lived a long time ago—and we use it to make plastic.

PLASTIC...

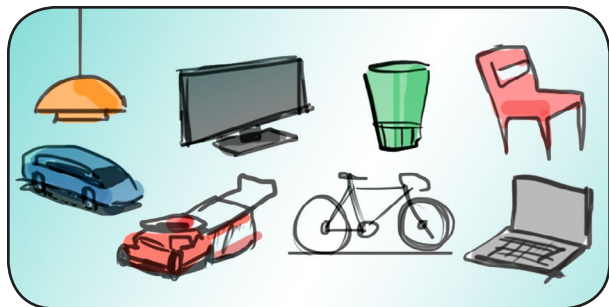
What are some of the qualities of plastics?



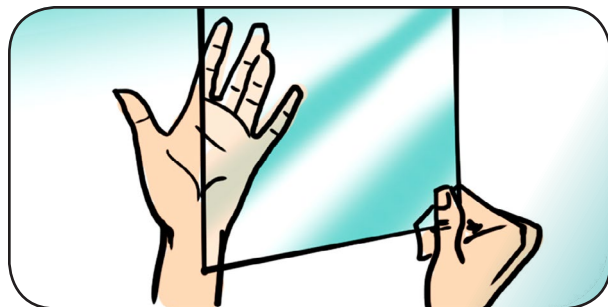
...is resistant and lightweight.



...can be shaped into any form.

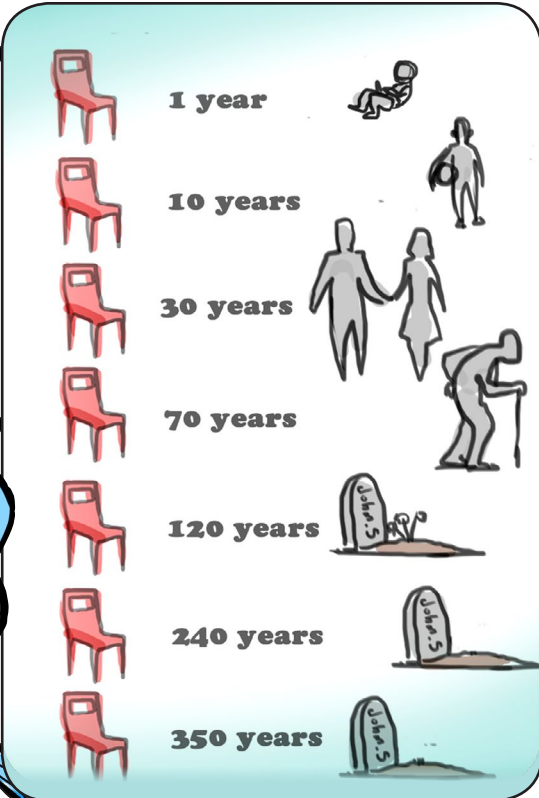


...is used to make many things we use everyday.



...can be transparent, colored, or opaque.

...lasts many years...
many, many, many,
many years.

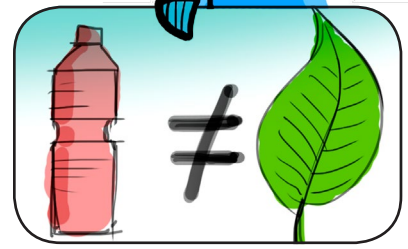


PLASTIC

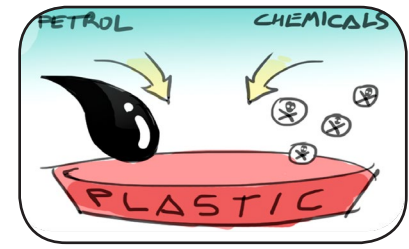
YOU



Let me tell you more about plastic.



Plastic is an artificial material.



Plastic is made with chemicals that are harmful to our health.



When burned, plastic releases toxic chemicals into the air we breathe.



Plastic does not decompose in nature or in the ocean.

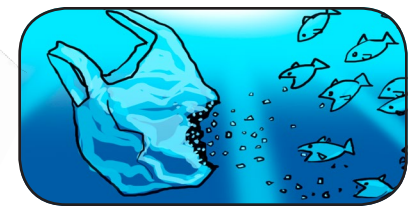


The plastic industry manufactures enormous amounts of bottles, bags, cups, straws, utensils and packaging everyday. They can last up to 500 years, even when designed to be used for only 5 minutes.

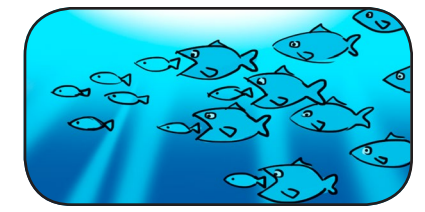
Plastic that you throw away often ends up in the ocean.



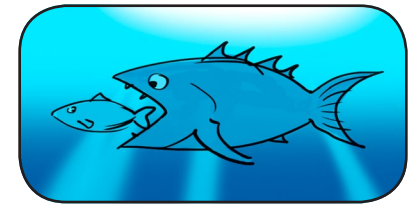
...So when we eat fish, we may be eating plastic particles and the toxic chemicals they contain.



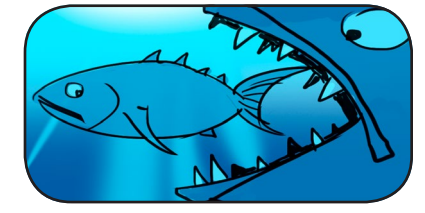
Instead of decomposing, plastic breaks down into smaller pieces which are eaten by tiny fish.



Then bigger fish eat the tiny fish...



And these fish are eaten by bigger ones...



And so on, and so on...

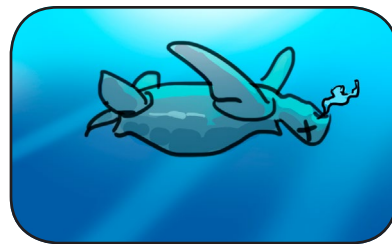




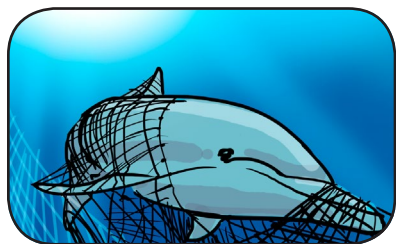
Sea turtles like to eat jelly fish.



They eat plastic bags, mistaking them for jellyfish.

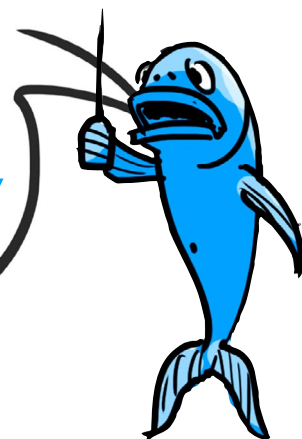


They die from intestinal blockage.

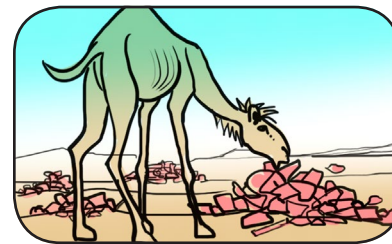


Dolphins, sharks, whales, seals, and sea lions become tangled in plastic fishing nets and die because they can't breathe.

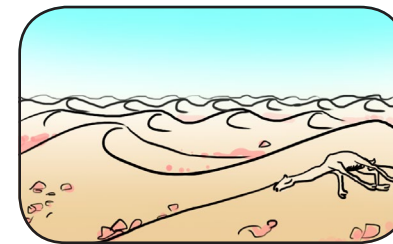
Plastic bags and fishing nets kill thousands of dolphins, sharks, turtles, and whales.



Plastic pollution is found around the world from the desert to the mountains.



Camels, donkeys, cows, antelopes, and many others eat plastic bags and bottles. They can starve to death with their stomachs full. Some die with their heads stuck in plastic yogurt containers.



Sea birds collect colored plastic floating on the sea and feed it to their babies, who die with their stomachs full of plastic.



Plastic bags and packaging also kill land animals and birds.





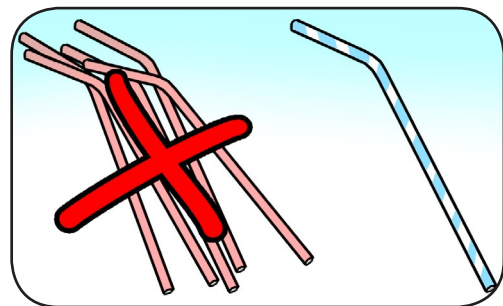
*Refuse
disposable
plastic!*



Tell your friends and family what you have learned. Remind your dad to bring reusable bags when shopping, and tell your mom too. Let your friends know how they can help reduce disposable plastic.



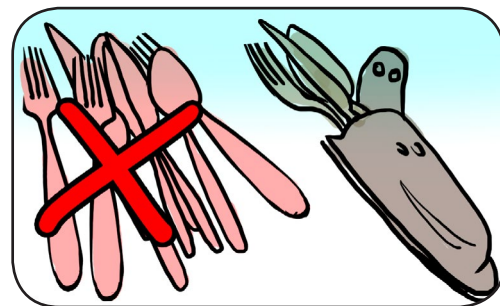
Look for products packaged in glass and paper.



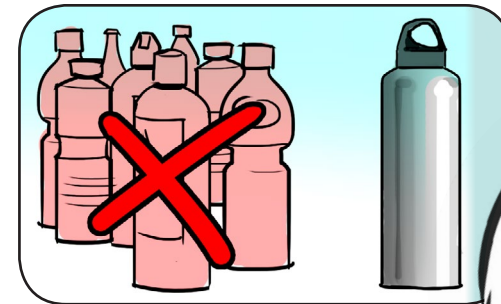
Skip the straw—or choose a paper, glass, or metal straw.



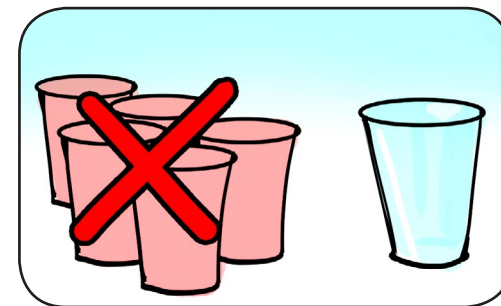
Keep reusable bags handy.



Use reusable wood or metal utensils.



Carry a reusable bottle daily.



Choose a reusable cup or bring your own.

*Think
reusable
— not
disposable!*





Plastic is made from oil, a limited resource.
When we design single-use and disposable packaging and items with plastic,
we are using a valuable material in an irresponsible way.
Choose reusable items today. We all can do something to help.

Drawings by **Alvaro Soler Arpa**
Written by **Dianna Cohen & Alvaro Soler Arpa**
Booklet Design by **Wayne DeSelle/deselle.com**

Cover Image artwork by Dianna Cohen, *Azul*, 2003, plastic bags, plastic netting and thread. Collection of Kate Damon.



Join the movement at
[plastic**pollution**coalition.org](https://plasticpollutioncoalition.org)

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