

Activity for Children

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEANS?

What can I do?

What can my family do?

What can my school do?

Glossary and Tips for Parents

There are some words in this comic script that young people in your family may know, but as a parent, you may not be familiar with. We have included this short glossary so that you understand the terms that your child may be using:

Biodegradable: When something is biodegradable, it means it can be broken down naturally by bacteria and return to nature without having a harmful impact on the environment. Examples of biodegradable items are food waste, grass, and most paper products.

Microplastics: These are small bits of plastic which are formed when bigger pieces of plastic are broken down. They are often too small to be seen. Microplastics have been found in fish, sea animals, tap water and bottled water.

Reusable: These are products that are made of materials that can be used more than once.

Recycle: This is collecting materials that would have been thrown away and turning them into new products. Recycling is an important way to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. Materials like glass, paper and plastic can be recycled.

Tips on getting your child to think about plastic

Next time you are in the shop ask your child to have a look around and identify how many products are packaged in plastic. There's a lot, right? Get them to look at the products that have plastic packaging. Explain to them that much of the packaging is unnecessary and point out examples e.g., bananas wrapped in plastic.

Together you can brainstorm ways that your household can reduce its use of plastic.

These might include things like:

- Using a recyclable bag instead of a plastic one
- Choosing paper straws over plastic straws
- Avoid plastic bottles when possible and use refillable bottles instead
- Avoid buying food that has unnecessary plastic packaging
- If you must use plastic, always reuse, or recycle it

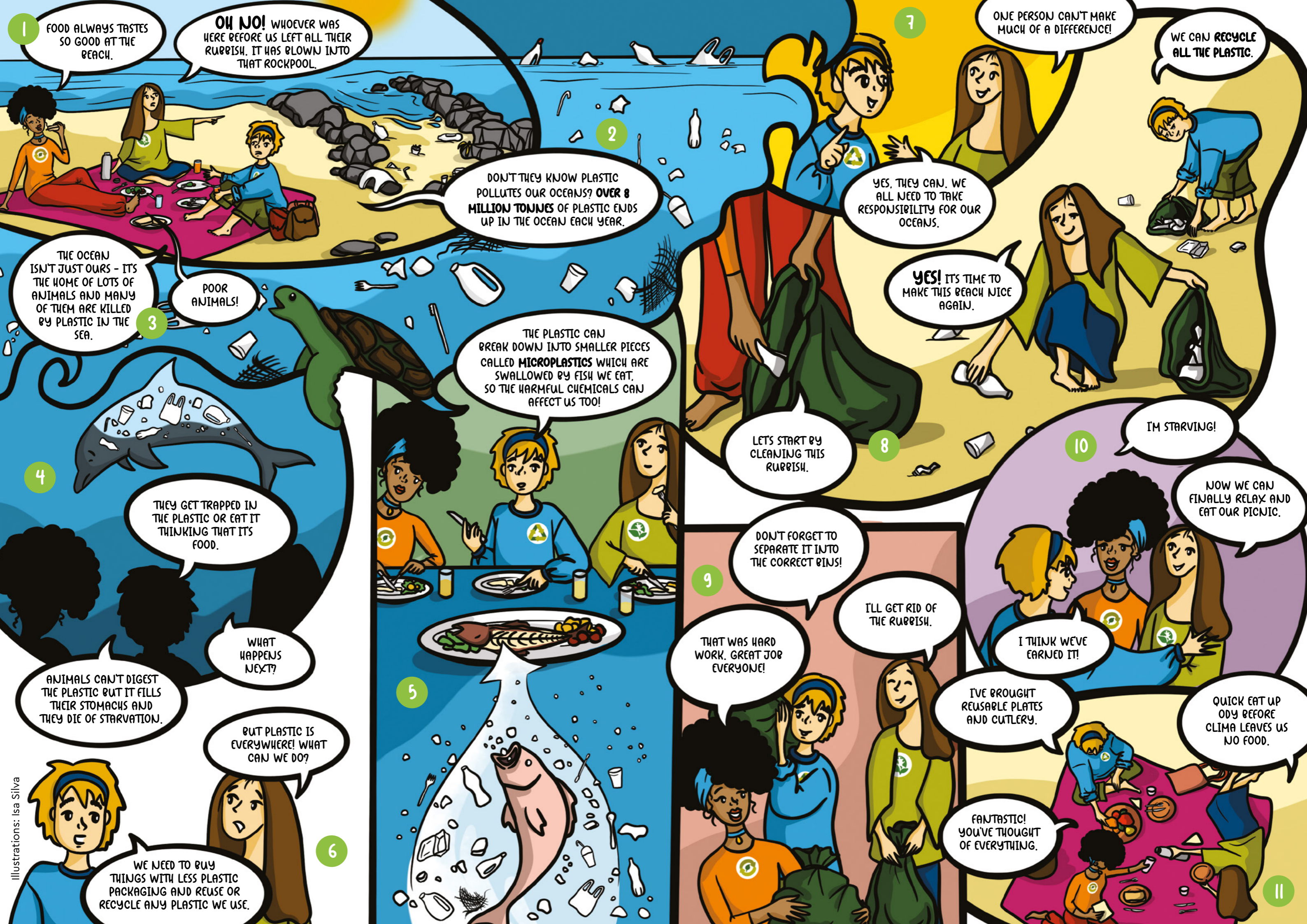
Plastic in Our Oceans



FAMILY FOOTPRINTS



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Project Number: 2021-1-IE01-KA220-ADU-000035273



1 FOOD ALWAYS TASTES SO GOOD AT THE BEACH.

OH NO! WHOEVER WAS HERE BEFORE US LEFT ALL THEIR RUBBISH. IT HAS BLOWN INTO THAT ROCKPOOL.

2 DON'T THEY KNOW PLASTIC POLLUTES OUR OCEANS? OVER 8 MILLION TONNES OF PLASTIC ENDS UP IN THE OCEAN EACH YEAR.

3 THE OCEAN ISN'T JUST OURS - IT'S THE HOME OF LOTS OF ANIMALS AND MANY OF THEM ARE KILLED BY PLASTIC IN THE SEA.

POOR ANIMALS!

THE PLASTIC CAN BREAK DOWN INTO SMALLER PIECES CALLED MICROPLASTICS WHICH ARE SWALLOWED BY FISH WE EAT, SO THE HARMFUL CHEMICALS CAN AFFECT US TOO!

4 THEY GET TRAPPED IN THE PLASTIC OR EAT IT THINKING THAT IT'S FOOD.

ANIMALS CAN'T DIGEST THE PLASTIC BUT IT FILLS THEIR STOMACHS AND THEY DIE OF STARVATION.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

BUT PLASTIC IS EVERYWHERE! WHAT CAN WE DO?

6 WE NEED TO BUY THINGS WITH LESS PLASTIC PACKAGING AND REUSE OR RECYCLE ANY PLASTIC WE USE.

7 ONE PERSON CAN'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE!

WE CAN RECYCLE ALL THE PLASTIC.

YES, THEY CAN. WE ALL NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OCEANS.

YES! IT'S TIME TO MAKE THIS BEACH NICE AGAIN.

8 LET'S START BY CLEANING THIS RUBBISH.

9 DON'T FORGET TO SEPARATE IT INTO THE CORRECT BINS!

THAT WAS HARD WORK. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

I'LL GET RID OF THE RUBBISH.

I'VE BROUGHT REUSABLE PLATES AND CUTLERY.

FANTASTIC! YOU'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.

10 I'M STARVING!

NOW WE CAN FINALLY RELAX AND EAT OUR PICNIC.

QUICK EAT UP ODDY BEFORE CLIMA LEAVES US NO FOOD.

Illustrations: Isa Silva