



Lilycroft Primary School

Topic Knowledge Organiser



TOPIC: Plastic Pollution

YEAR: 4

STRAND: Geography

What should I already know?

- There are different types of pollution
- A basic understanding of recycling
- Climate change is causing problems to our environment

What will I know by the end of the unit?

What is plastic pollution?	Plastic that enters the environment and causes damage or harm
Why is it a problem?	Problem to the local environment and to the whole planet and the effect on the oceans
What causes plastic pollution?	Plastic is a useful material. Single use plastics are the problem - too much waste.
What does biodegradable mean?	Some materials are biodegradable and decompose
What journey does plastic take to the sea?	From bin, blown by wind to rivers leading to the sea - pulled into the centre of a gyre and broken down into thousands of pieces - can end up back on shore?
Can all plastic be recycled?	Not all, only 9% of plastic can be recycled
Which plastics can be recycled?	Plastics made from crude oil are recyclable.
What can we do to make a change?	Reduce, reuse, recycle around the home and school.
Who is Boyan Slat?	Aged 20 invented a device to help clean up the ocean

Diagram



Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
pollution	The introduction of something harmful into the environment.
decompose	To break down or cause to break down into smaller pieces.
biodegradable	Capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms and thereby avoiding pollution.
gyre	A whirlpool of ocean currents.
environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives
plastic	Plastic is a man-made material.
reduce	Make smaller or use less
reuse	To use more than once
recycle	To convert into reusable material so it can be used again
Single-use	Is only used once

Investigate

- The journey plastic takes
- The damage plastic pollution causes
- The most effective way to help
- 101 things to do with a plastic bottle

Inspirational person

Boyan Slat