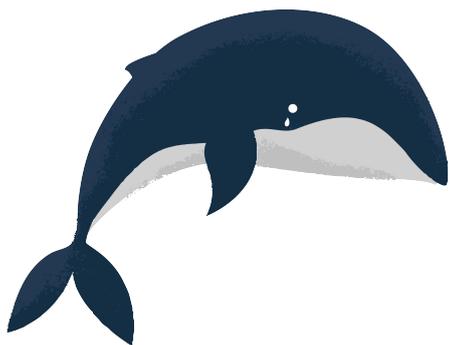


Plastics & Picnic Quiz Answers



1. Leo Baekeland from Belgium invented plastic (Bakelite) just over 100 years ago.
2. It takes around 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose but, as plastic has only been around for just over 100 years, we can't know for certain. However, plastic doesn't ever go away completely. Carried to the ocean by the wind, rain or via streams and rivers, plastic is mistaken for food and eaten by whales and dolphins who then starve, because their stomachs are full of plastic that they can't digest. Plastic is broken down into smaller and smaller pieces (micro-plastics) and these micro-plastics are ingested by baleen whales or eaten by small organisms, which are then eaten by small fish, which are then eaten by larger fish and so plastic makes its way up the food chain.
3. Plastic bottles: plastic is cheap to make, durable and versatile, which is why there is so much of it around.
4. All of these items may contain plastic, including some clothes, such as fleeces, which then release tiny plastic particles in the washing machine that then enter the environment.
5. The average UK household uses 480 single-use plastic bottles per annum but only puts 270 out for recycling, meaning that around 16 million bottles aren't recycled every year in the UK alone.
6. The amount of plastic that entered the oceans in one year (2010) was 8.75 million tonnes, which is about the weight of 53,000 blue whales BUT at WDC we estimate there are only 10,000 - 25,000 blue whales left in the world today. More plastic enters the ocean each year than the combined weight of every single blue whale alive today.
7. France opened its royal parks to the public in 1789 after the Revolution and is credited with holding the first picnic as people flocked to see the parks and eat outdoors.
8. The most popular picnic item today is a packet of crisps whilst 50 years ago it was a cheese sandwich.
9. The London store Fortnum & Mason claims to have invented Scotch Eggs by creating a snack for travellers but the name for the snack was supposedly derived from a nickname used by Londoners who lived around Wellington Barracks after Officers of the Scots Guards stationed there developed a taste for the snack.
10. "If you go down to the woods today..... today's the day the Teddy Bears have their picnic!"
Time for a sing-song everyone?
11. Jane Austen's "Emma" is the only one of her novels that refers to a picnic.
12. William Holden and Kim Novak starred in the 1955 film of that name.