



# PARTY FOR THE PLANET

## PLASTICS QUIZ

1. When was plastic invented? (Bonus point for the name of the inventor.)

2. How long does it take (approx.) for a plastic bottle to decompose?

3. Which costs the least money to make?

- a. 100 plastic bottles
- b. 100 glass bottles
- c. 100 fizzy drinks cans



4. Which of these have plastic in them? (tick as many as you like)

Clothes, baby wipes, chewing gum, disposable coffee cups, tea bags, space suits, wind turbines, car windscreens, medical instruments, feminine hygiene products, prosthetic limbs, fish, whales and dolphins, humans.

5. How many single-use plastic bottles, on average, does a UK household use in a year?

6. How many of these bottles, on average, are put out for recycling?

7. The amount of plastic that entered the oceans in one year (2010) was approx. 8.75 million tonnes, which is equivalent to the weight of roughly how many blue whales?

- a. 530
- b. 5,300
- c. 53,000

8. How many blue whales does WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, estimate are left on the planet today?

- a. 10,000 - 25,000
- b. 25,000 - 50,000
- c. 50,000 - 75,000



WHALE AND  
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# PLASTICS 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 plastic doesn't provide any nutrients and 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 (filter feeding) 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 and onto our dinner plates.
3. Plastic bottles.  
Plastic is cheap to make, it's extremely durable and versatile, so that's why there's so much of it around!
4. All of these items may contain plastic. Some clothes, such as fleeces, then release tiny plastic particles in the washing machine which then enter the environment.
5. The average UK household uses 480 single-use plastic bottles per annum.
6. Of these 480 single-use bottles, only around 270 are put out for recycling. This means that every year (in the UK alone) of the 35 million plastic bottles used every day in the UK, nearly 16 million aren't being put out for recycling. These bottles either end up in landfill or in the ocean.
- 7 & 8. 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 we (WDC) 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. (NB. A blue whale is roughly the same size as a Boeing 737 plane!)

**PLASTIC IN THE OCEANS KILLS  
WHALES AND DOLPHINS.  
PLASTIC IS #NOTWHALEFOOD.**



WHALE AND  
DOLPHIN  
CONSERVATION

