

Knowledge Organiser—Year 4

How can we influence the future of our planet?

Vocabulary

Reuse— to use again

Landfill—an area where garbage is dumped and covered with dirt

Organic—grown only with natural fertilizers

Biodegradable—able to be broken down by tiny organisms

Raw materials—things in nature that people use to make things

Recycle—to make new things from old materials

Compost -a soil like mixture made from rotting plant and animal matter

Pollution—the introduction of harmful materials into our soil, air, or water

Environment—the surroundings in which a person, animal, or plant lives

Conservation - the wise use of water, land, and other resources to minimize waste or loss



Garfield Primary

Key facts

Plastics are amongst the most versatile and commonly used materials in the world, and whilst no one can deny the profound impact they have had on the last 100 years of human history, our reliance on the various forms of plastic has made developing an efficient method of plastic recycling essential.

The oceans are home to an estimated 5 trillion pieces of floating plastic. Much of this buoyant trash is to be found concentrated in the main circular currents, or gyres. These are formed by a combination of the Earth's rotation and winds. Floating particles naturally drift towards their centre.

350 million tonnes of plastic are being produced each year. This could weigh more than humanity, estimated at 316 million tonnes in 2013.

8 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean every year. If waste management practices don't improve, scientists predict this amount could increase tenfold by 2025.

Plastic in the ocean breaks up into smaller fragments called microplastics, which have been identified in commercial fish consumed by humans.

Plastics make up to around 75% of marine litter, although this can be up to 100% at some sites.

640,613 tonnes of plastic packaging was collected to be recycled in 2012 and it is estimated that by 2017 over 1,213,000 tonnes of plastic packaging in the UK will be recycled annually! However this is still with barely more than 40% of households actively recycling.