

A close-up photograph of a large, translucent blue plastic sheet, possibly a tarp or trash bag, which is heavily wrinkled and draped over a surface. A red fishing net is visible, draped across the plastic. The lighting creates highlights on the plastic's surface, emphasizing its texture and the way it hangs.

Is Plastic Fantastic?

**This booklet is dedicated
to all living creatures, the mystery of
the depths, and the magic of nature.**



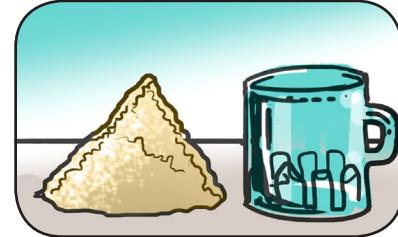
*Do you know
what these
materials are
made from?*

Paper?



Paper is made from wood.

Glass?



Glass is made from sand.

Plastic?



Plastic is made from oil.

...But, do you know what oil is made from?



It took 3.8 billion years
for life to evolve on earth.

600 million years ago
plants appeared.

Then life in the seas, oceans,
and lakes appeared.

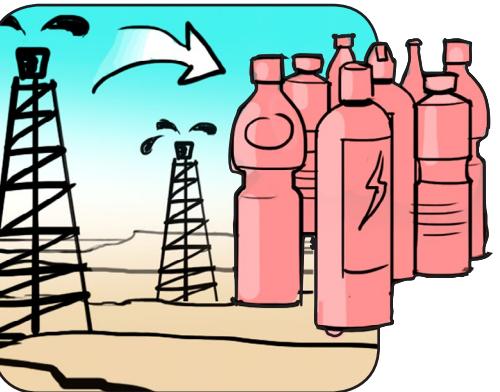
Then came the
great dinosaurs and the
first mammals...



and when all the dinosaurs
and plants died, the earth
compressed them and
changed them into oil...



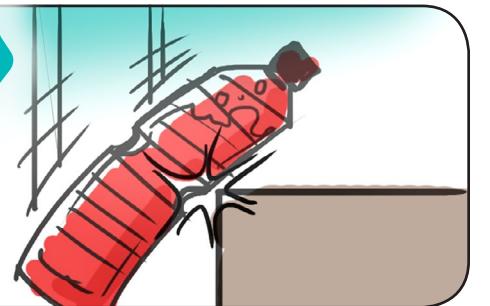
and this oil—
called petroleum—
is what we use to make plastic.



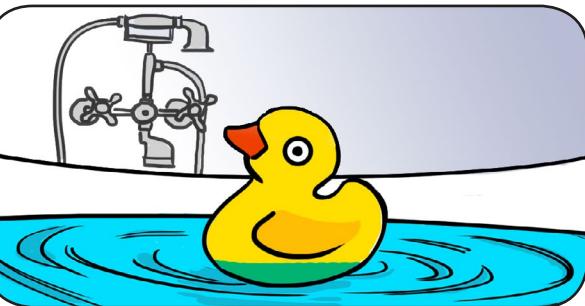
So we take oil—which was made from plants and dinosaurs
that lived a long time ago—and we use it to make plastic.

What are some of the qualities of plastics?

PLASTIC...



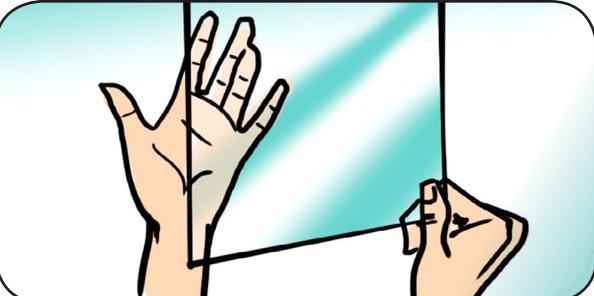
...is resistant and lightweight.



...can be shaped into any form.

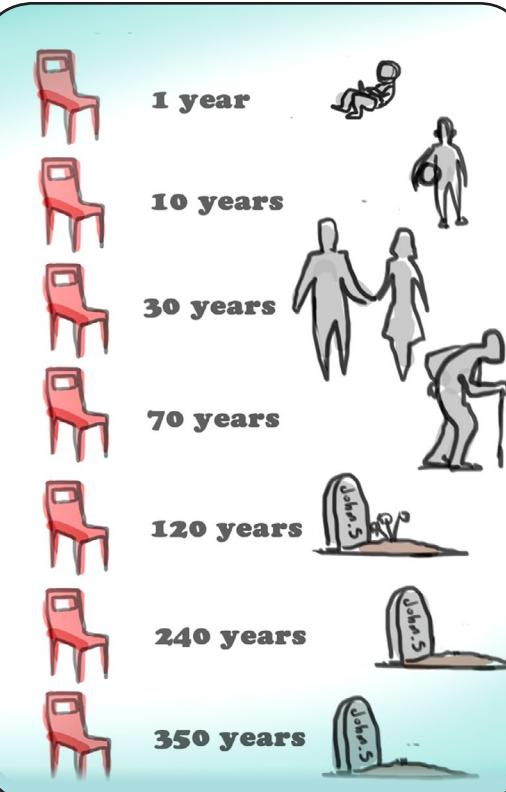


...is used to make many things we use everyday.



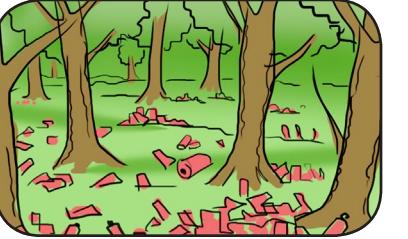
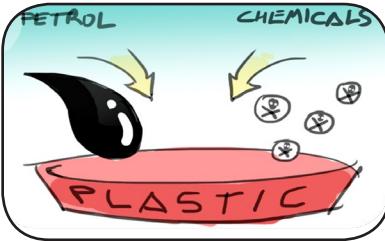
...can be transparent, colored, or opaque.

...lasts many years...
many, many, many,
many years.



PLASTIC

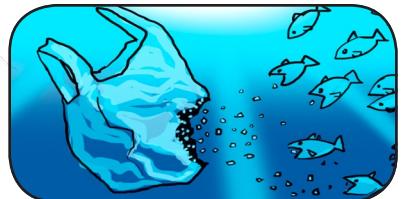
YOU



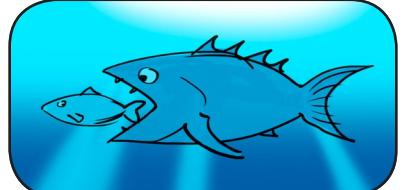
Plastic does not decompose in nature or in the ocean.



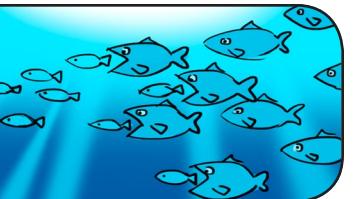
The plastic industry manufactures enormous amounts of bottles, bags, cups, straws, utensils and packaging everyday. They can last up to 500 years, even when designed to be used for only 5 minutes.



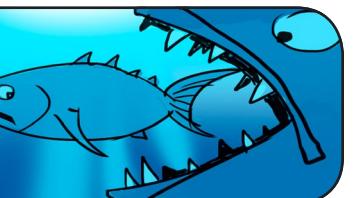
Instead of decomposing, plastic breaks down into smaller pieces which are eaten by tiny fish.



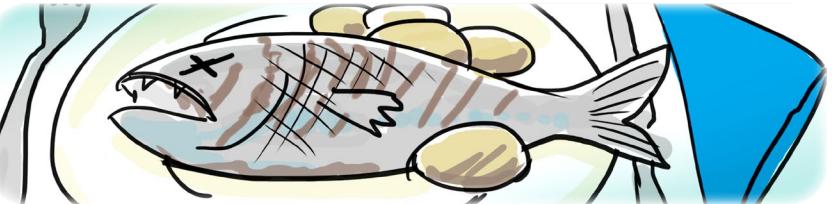
And these fish are eaten by bigger ones...



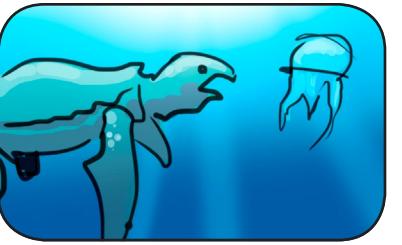
Then bigger fish eat the tiny fish...



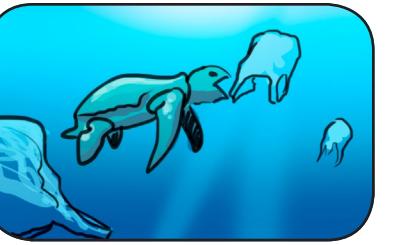
And so on, and so on...



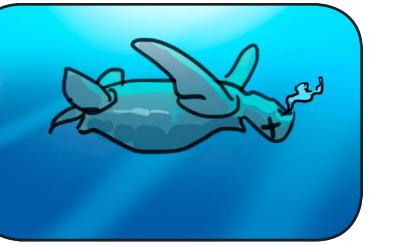
...So when we eat fish, we may be eating plastic particles and the toxic chemicals they contain.



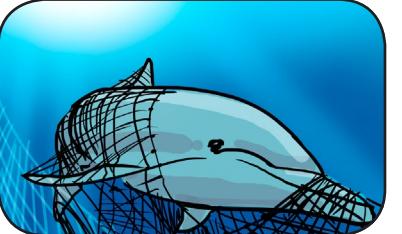
Sea turtles like to eat jelly fish.



They eat plastic bags, mistaking them for jellyfish.



They die from intestinal blockage.



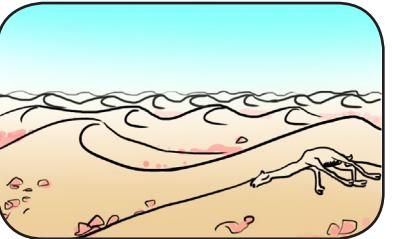
Dolphins, sharks, whales, seals, and sea lions become tangled in plastic fishing nets and die because they can't breathe.



Plastic pollution is found around the world from the desert to the mountains.



Camels, donkeys, cows, antelopes, and many others eat plastic bags and bottles. They can starve to death with their stomachs full. Some die with their heads stuck in plastic yogurt containers.



Sea birds collect colored plastic floating on the sea and feed it to their babies, who die with their stomachs full of plastic.



Plastic bags and packaging also kill land animals and birds.





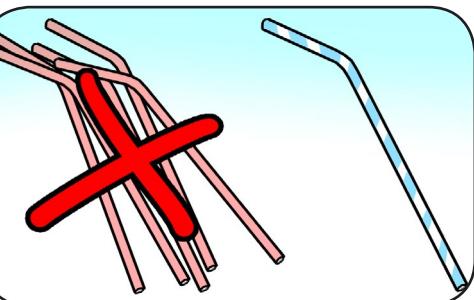
**Refuse
disposable
plastic!**



Tell your friends and family what you have learned. Remind your dad to bring reusable bags when shopping, and tell your mom too. Let your friends know how they can help reduce disposable plastic.



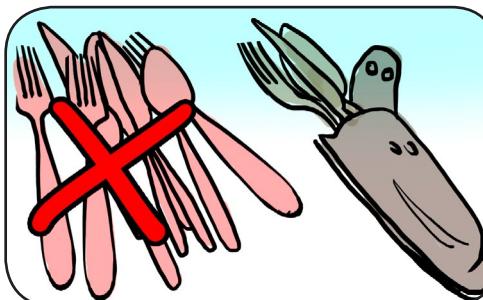
Look for products packaged in glass and paper.



Skip the straw—or choose a paper, glass, or metal straw.



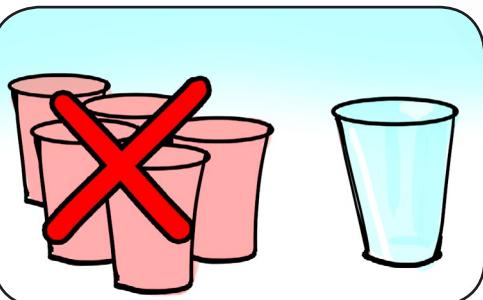
Keep reusable bags handy.



Use reusable wood or metal utensils.



Carry a reusable bottle daily.



Choose a reusable cup or bring your own.





*So... plastic is NOT
that fantastic!*

Plastic is made from oil, a limited resource.
When we design single-use and disposable packaging and items with plastic,
we are using a valuable material in an irresponsible way.
Choose reusable items today. We all can do something to help.

Cover Image artwork by Dianna Cohen, *Azul*, 2003, plastic bags, plastic netting and thread. Collection of Kate Damon.

Drawings by **Alvaro Soler Arpa**
Written by **Dianna Cohen & Alvaro Soler Arpa**
Booklet Design by **Wayne DeSelle/deselle.com**



Join the movement at
plasticpollutioncoalition.org