

We talked in school about geographical issues. These are problems around the world which people often debate. Read the text below about plastic pollution and then answer the questions below.

Try to make 2019 the year you and your family use less plastic

By National Geographic, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.08.19

Word Count **431**

Level **580L**



A beach in Naples, Italy, is covered with plastic waste and debris. What can you do to fight plastic pollution in 2019? Photo by Salvatore Laporta/Getty Images

Making a list of New Year's resolutions is popular with many people. It is a set of goals people make. The hope is to do some things better in the new year.

Usually, these resolutions are about improving themselves. Some people want to exercise more. Others want to save money. Some want to learn new skills.

This year, ask your family or friends to try a group resolution. Consider reducing your waste of plastic products you only use once. This might mean using fewer plastic bags. It might mean thinking twice before getting foods packed in plastic.

Much plastic is used just once and quickly becomes trash. Some plastic goes into the ocean. Scientists estimate that 18 billion pounds of plastic trash flows into the oceans every year.

Here are two ways to use less plastic in 2019 as a family.

Decorate With Paper

Planning a birthday party or holiday celebration? Pledge to have a plastic-free party.

Get creative when decorating. Try not to use balloons. Undersea animals can mistake balloons for food.

Replace balloons with cut-out paper decorations. This could include banners or confetti.

Maybe you were planning to celebrate with glitter. Most glitter is actually just tiny pieces of plastic. Instead, consider buying a natural kind. This will be less wasteful.

Bring A Reusable Bag To The Store

Promise to shop smarter. It is healthier for you and the planet.

Try to avoid snacks that come wrapped in individual plastic. Instead, go to the bulk section of the store. You can usually grab popcorn kernels and banana chips here. Shop with reusable bags for whole fruits and vegetables. Grab some canned beans. Fill a bring-your-own container with grains from the bulk section. Brown rice is an example.

Families can cook a meal free from single-use plastic. Maybe fish is on the menu. If so, read an online guide like Seafood Watch. It shows the practices used to catch that type of fish. Often, fishers leave behind their gear. It falls in the ocean. Knowing the kind of gear used to catch fish can help cut down on harm.

We all want to spend less money. Plastic is a great place to start. Instead of buying new toys, host a toy trade. Swap with your friends.

Do not forget about the plastic packaging. It covers almost all items that you buy online. Consider your plastic resolution when shopping anywhere.

Get creative! Think of ways to give old pieces of plastic a new job. Avoid buying a new item. Use newspaper sleeves to pick up pet poo, for example.

Monday

1. What advice is given to encourage people to reduce their waste of single-use plastic products? Find two pieces of evidence from the text.
2. What can people do instead of buying new toys?
3. How much plastic do scientists estimate ends up in the ocean each year?
4. How can people throw a party without plastic?
 - a) Use balloons
 - b) Use water bottles
 - c) Use paper decorations
 - d) Throw lots of glitter

Tuesday

5. What is the meaning of the word '**reusable**' in the sentence '*shop with reusable bags*'?
6. What does the word '**gear**' mean in the sentences '*often, fishers leave behind their gear*'?
7. What is the best definition of the word '**avoid**'?
 - a) Stay away from
 - b) Follow
 - c) Stop
 - d) Think about
8. What does the word '**flows**' suggest about the plastic the sentence '*plastic trash flows into the oceans each year*'?
 - a) Moves
 - b) Travels
 - c) Rolling
 - d) Follows

Wednesday

9. What is the main idea of the whole text?
10. This article was produced in 2019. It encourages people to use less plastic in 2019. Do you think that plastic pollution is still a problem now in 2020? Why?
11. What does the section "Decorate With Paper" show the reader?
- the kinds of snacks to buy when shopping in a store
 - some ways to spend less money by buying fewer new toys
 - some ways to have a party without using plastic decorations
 - the number of pounds of plastic trash that flows into the oceans
12. Which of the following information will the reader find in the section "Bring a Reusable Bag To The Store"?
- Most glitter is made of tiny pieces of plastic.
 - Undersea animals sometimes think balloons are food.
 - New Year's resolutions are goals that people make.
 - Seafood Watch gives information about how fish are caught.

Thursday

13. The author thinks that people should bring reusable bags to the store when shopping. Why does the author think this?
- because using reusable bags is a lot of fun to do
 - because using reusable bags is good for the planet
 - because reusable bags can hold foods wrapped in plastic
 - because reusable bags can be thrown away in the trash
14. The author writes that "we all want to spend less money. Plastic is a great place to start. Instead of buying new toys, host a toy trade. Swap with your friends." How does the author feel about buying new plastic toys?
- It is great to buy new plastic toys for friends.
 - Buying new plastic toys is good if you give them to your friends.
 - Trading toys with friends is better than buying new plastic toys.
 - It is great to buy new plastic toys for a toy trade.
15. This text is all about making sure that you are finding different ways to reduce waste of plastic. What could you do to reduce your plastic waste?
16. Do you think that plastic waste is a problem? Explain why.

Friday

Today I would like you to login to Epic and read a story of your choice. Once you have read it, you could choose to write a review about the book to say whether you enjoyed it or not.

You can use the templates of the book reviews from last week to help you with this.

As always, if you have any problems, send me an email at CPSClass11@corporationroad.darlington.sch.uk



Class Sign In Instructions

Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

- Go to www.getepic.com/students
- Sign in with your class code
- Select their name and they're in!

iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

- Click on "Have an account? Sign In" then click on "Students & Educators"
- Sign in with your class code
- Select their name and they're in!