

Before Reading

1. Look at the pictures and make predictions. Discuss your answers as a class.



- a. What do you see in the pictures?
- b. Who do you think is the responsible for these scenarios?
- c. What do you think will happen in 30 years?

More plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050

30 years from now our seas will contain more plastic than fish. According to a report released by the World Economic Forum, plastic production around the world is expected to double within the next 20 years. Today, one garbage truck full of plastic gets into the ocean every minute; by 2050, it will be four.

About 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into the sea every year. There, it can last for hundreds of years. Environmentalists estimate that there are about 160 million tons of plastic in the world's oceans today. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.

Plastic that turns up in the seas endangers the fish population and other marine animals. In addition, it produces a gigantic

garbage patch that floats on the surface. But the plastic that floats in the water is only a fraction of the whole amount.

Plastic is becoming more and more popular in our world. It has many uses and is cheap to produce. However, it is endangering our environment more than any other material.

The World Economic Forum calls for more recycling and a better use of plastic. 95% of all plastic that is produced is only used once, and then it is thrown away. Oil is the raw material that plastic is made of. Currently, 5% of the world's oil production is turned into plastic. By 2050 it will rise to a fifth.

Source: <https://www.english-online.at/news-articles/environment/more-plastic-than-fish-in-oceans-by-2050.htm>

While Reading

2. Read the sentences and determine whether they are true or false.

- a. Plastic production around the world is expected to double within the next 10 years.
- b. Plastic in the ocean can last for hundreds of years.
- c. Plastic that floats on the sea is only the visible part of the tons of plastic under the surface.
- d. Plastic is not the most dangerous material for the environment.

3. What do the following numbers refer to?

a. 2050

b. 8 million

c. 95

d. 5

After Reading

4. In groups, discuss the questions.

What alternative materials can we use to avoid using plastic?