READING

A news story

1 ★ **Look at the photos and read the news story quickly. Circle the best title.**

a Why we should use drinking straws
b The history of drinking straws
c The end of drinking straws?



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Most of us have used straws. They are useful and [1] *they can be fun to drink with*. When we get a cola or juice from a café or restaurant, for example, it often comes with a straw, [2] _____. We usually use them once and then **dispose** of them immediately. In fact, people in the USA use 500 million every day. That's enough straws to go around the planet 2.5 times!

The big problem with straws is that many of them [3] _____. Europeans **recycle** only about 30% of their plastic, and straws are in the top ten **items** of **litter** found on beaches every year.

The good news is that [4] _____. More and more big companies are deciding not to use straws, or to provide them only when customers have asked for them. The US city of Seattle has already put a **ban** on straws, and the European Union wants to do the same by 2030. Scotland plans to do this in 2019. Even the British Queen [5] _____.

So, it is possible that plastic drinking straws will soon be a thing of the past. Many people believe that we can continue to protect our environment by also reducing all the other plastic objects that we only use once, [6] _____.



2 ★★ **Complete the article with the missing sentence parts (a–f).**

a end up in the seas and oceans, as waste
b such as bags, cups or bottles
c ~~they can be fun to drink with~~
d people are starting to do something about the problem
e including when we haven't asked for one
f has decided not to have plastic straws in any of her houses

3 ★★ **Match the words in bold in the news story with the definitions.**

1 things on a list *items*
2 put something in the bin after we have used it _____
3 an official law that stops something from happening _____
4 use something again, or change it into something different _____
5 small bits of rubbish in public places _____

4 ★★ **What do these numbers in the news story describe?**

1 30 *The amount of their plastic, in percent, that Europeans recycle.*
2 500 million _____
3 2.5 _____
4 2019 _____
5 10 _____

5 ★★★ **Apart from a ban, how can we reduce the number of plastic straws people use? Write three ideas.**

_____
_____
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS