

Name:

What's your impact?

Welcome to science. Each year we spend some time focusing on climate change and human impact on the environment. For this assignment you will be educating yourselves on the effects plastic production and pollution can have on the environment. There are three parts to this assignment.

Part 1: How does plastic affect our environment?

Use the attached resources as well as any additional research you find to answer the questions in part 1 (attached on an additional worksheet).

Part 2: How are companies helping to reduce plastic?

Research a company that is making a positive impact on the environment. Many companies use recycled plastic to create things like shoes and other companies are making reusable bags, water bottles, straws etc to help cut down on the use of plastic. Find a company that interests you and complete the attached write up for that company.

Part 3: What can you do right now to help reduce plastic?

Maybe one day you can make a company of your own that has a positive impact on our world but you don't have to wait. There are things right now that you can do. You can make a conscious effort to cut down on plastic. You can start recycling or gather materials from your home, building neighborhood etc and make sure they get properly recycled. You can take things that would be thrown out and make them into something new and useful, this is called upcycling and it is a lot of fun. For this part of the assignment you will have a choice board on how you can contribute to plastic reduction during the summer.

Part 1: How does plastic affect the environment?

Here are some resources that can help you answer the following questions and get a better understanding on where plastic comes from and why it is a problem in our environment. You may also look for additional resources on your own.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/kids-vs-plastic/pollution/>

<https://www.timeforkids.com/g34/the-problem-with-plastic/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/plastic-pollution/>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Plastic>

Questions: Answer the following questions in as much detail as you can provide.

1. Where does plastic come from? (How is it made?)

2. Why does so much plastic end up in the oceans?

3. What are some of the effects plastic has on the environment?

4. Why is plastic difficult to recycle?

Part 2: How are companies helping to reduce plastic use?

Many companies are using plastic materials and recycling them into new materials. Other companies are developing goods that don't use plastic and are biodegradable, meaning they naturally break down in the environment. For this part you are going to look at a company that is helping the environment and tell us how.

You need to do a little independent research for this but here are a few resources that will help get you started.

<https://www.plasticboards.com/10-innovative-companies-that-reuse-plastic/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/companies-using-recycled-plastic-in-products#rothys-7>

<https://www.shiniusa.com/2019/06/03/15-companies-recycled-plastics/>

Directions: Write a paragraph or two describing what the company you chose is doing to help the environment. Answer as many of the following questions as you can. Write or type your paragraph in the box below.

- What is the name of your company?
- What products do they make?
- How does that product recycle plastic, or cut down on plastic use?
- How did they get started?

- Are you able to find any information on how much plastic is recycled into their materials?
- What do they use for their materials instead of plastic?
- Why did you choose this company to discuss?
- Were you surprised by the information you read on this company?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide answers to the questions listed above.

Part 3: What can you do right now to help reduce plastic?

Now that you are an expert in how to help the environment it is time to put your knowledge into action. Pick an activity you can do that will help benefit the environment by cutting down on plastic waste. Choose an activity from the choice board below and document what you did.

<p>Use no (non-reusable) plastic for a whole day.</p> <p>Spend 1 day using only reusable materials (water bottles, bags, straws, plastic containers) and produce 0 waste. This is a challenge but can be fun and creative.</p> <p>To document write down everything you used instead of plastic in a journal entry and describe any challenges you faced.</p>	<p>Do a DIY upcycling project.</p> <p>This may take a little outside research for ideas but can be a fun way to take waste and turn it into something cool just like the companies you read about.</p> <p>To document take pictures to share with the class and write a how to for your project for others to do.</p> <p>Here are some ideas https://www.pinterest.com/bigheartedfams/kids-can-upcycle/</p>
<p>Collect and recycle</p> <p>Spend a few days collecting recyclable</p>	<p>Neighborhood clean up</p> <p>For a few days be aware of the trash</p>

cans, bottles etc and making sure they get recycled. You can collect from your house, from your neighbors etc. You can even bring most cans and bottles to supermarkets and recycle them for money.

To document, write a journal on how much you collected, from where and how you recycled. Include any challenges or fun experiences.

and plastic around your neighborhood. Make a conscious effort to help clean it up. Maybe plan a trip with some friends to the beach or a nearby park and clean up some trash or simply dedicate a week to cleaning up any litter you see in your daily life.

Document by keeping a journal. If it is a planned trip write about where you went, what you cleaned up and what the experience was like.

Please wear gloves when you pick up trash and do not pick up anything dangerous

Part 3 Journal

- Which activity did you choose to do?
- Write up what you did and learned from that activity based on the directions in the choice board.
- How did that activity help the environment?

