

Just the Facts: Single Use Plastics

79% of plastic that has ever been made still sits in landfills or the natural environment.

packaging production constituted the highest-demanded use for plastic, with

146 million
metric tons used



Each student using a disposable lunch produces roughly
67 pounds
of waste during a nine-month school year



26 million
US tons of plastic foam is produced in the world each year.

1 million
plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide.



Recycling rates are around **30%** in Europe, 25% in China and only 9% in the U.S.



☒ Check out more information about plastics.

8.3 billion
Metric Tons of plastic has been produced since its introduction in the 1950's.



www.earthday.org



Earth Day Showcase

Choose one topic from the topics below. **Learn** about how plastics effects the Earth in different ways. **Find** solutions to plastic problems through action. **Showcase** your creativity.

Plastics and Art

Use artistic expression to reuse plastic to make something new



Plastics and Animals

Reimagine plastic as a way to help animals instead of harming them.

Plastics and Community

Think about how plastic pollution effects your community.



Plastics and Art

Art is something we create. With art, you can create a scene or image that sends a message to the audience about a specific topic or theme.



For example, plastic waste is bad for the Earth. To show that, we can make a drawing or image that shows the message of **reducing plastic waste**, or plastic harming the Earth.



Art by Haura Amira
Faisal

Plastics and Art

The Power of Art: Art as Advocacy for the Earth

Art is a way to express our ideas and thoughts.. With art, you can create a scene or image that sends a message to the audience about a specific topic or theme.



For the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the [National Archives](#) feature a poster by Robert Rauschenberg.



Image: Benjamin Von Wong

Art and Its Message

Art is a way to express oneself. With art, you can create a scene or image that sends a message to the audience about a specific topic or theme.

Using Plastic to Create Art

Using plastic to create art is a way to express a deeper message. Examples of plastic: water bottles, bags, straws, utensils



Plastics and Art

Environmental Art and Artistic Inspiration

Art is a way to express creativity and tell a story. Many environmental artists are inspired by their own stories of home.

Rebecca Lee Kunz, an artist and citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, creates her work using printmaking, paint, natural materials like eaves and stones, and more.



From Cinders

Terry Evans is also inspired by lessons from the land. Evans grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and her work has revolved around prairies.



Bur Oak with Roots

Plastics and Animals

Plastic Impact on Animals

Plastic can be harmful to animals in the wild. That is why we must:

Reduce the amount of plastic we use,
Reuse plastic as many times as possible, and
Recycle as much plastic as we can



Reusing Plastics to Help Animals

We can reuse plastic objects like water bottles, forks, spoon, cans, etc. in a way that can benefit wildlife in a safe and helpful way.

Example: Using water bottles as planters for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, or hummingbirds.



Plastics and Animals



Plastics are everywhere.

Plastics can be found in our water, beaches, and even the food chain. Animals are harmed by plastic, especially when they mistake it for food, or get tangled in plastic nets. Plastic breaks down into small pieces called *microplastics*, and spread throughout habitats, impacting even the smallest forms of wildlife.

Small Changes, Big impact.

You can help reduce plastic waste by making small changes to your everyday life. Using reusable water bottles or lunch containers, recycling properly, avoiding plastic utensils, and even picking up litter are some easy and impactful practices that can help reduce plastic use and save wildlife.



Plastics and Animals

Plastic Pollution and Marine Life

Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas.



Plastic Pollution and Wildlife

Sewage is a key factor in the distribution of microplastics. In fact, 80 to 90 percent of the plastic particles contained in sewage persist in the sludge. This sewage sludge is massively used as fertilizer, thus causing the wide dispersion of microplastics in our the soils. The overall reduction in consumption and the reuse of plastic will result in less plastic circulating through trash piles that can reach the soil and forests.



Taking Action Against Plastics

Within your community, school, or classroom you can take action against plastic pollution. You can also calculate your personal plastic footprint to identify ways you can reduce your plastic use.



Plastics and Community



Clean Ups in Your Community

A clean up is an event where people come together to pick up waste from an area so it can keep people and animals safe and healthy. When people come together to clean up the community, you can make a bigger difference.

Plastics

Single use plastics like water bottles and utensils are a big problem that causes a lot of plastic waste.



Plastics and Community



Clean Ups in Your Community

Clean ups are a great way to bring people together to keep their community safe, healthy, and clean. Clean ups allow people to look at what types of waste people leave behind. This can include doing a waste audit. This can be helpful in making changes on how much plastic we use and how we can reduce and reuse plastic waste.

Plastics Are All Over

Plastics like water bottles, cups, and utensils, are not just found in your community but are a big problem all over the world. Plastic consumption is a big problem that causes a lot of plastic waste.



Plastics and Community



Clean Ups in Your Community

Clean ups are a great way to bring people together to keep their community safe, healthy, and clean. Clean ups allow people to look at what types of waste people leave behind. This can include doing a waste audit. This can be helpful in making changes on how much plastic we use and how we can reduce and reuse plastic waste.

Single Use Plastics Waste

Plastics like water bottles, cups, and utensils, are not just found in your community but are a big problem all over the world. Plastic consumption is a big problem that causes a lot of plastic waste.



Organizing Community Events

Organizing an event in your community is a great way to bring awareness to the dangers of plastic waste. Working with your school can allow you to organize and amplify messaging for your event. Learn about the Great Global Clean Up with our official [toolkit](#).

5 STEPS TO COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT



1 **Learn**



2 **Think**



3 **Plan**



4 **Action**



5 **Celebrate**

Learn

Fact 1

Fact 2

Fact 3

Fact 4

What I learned:

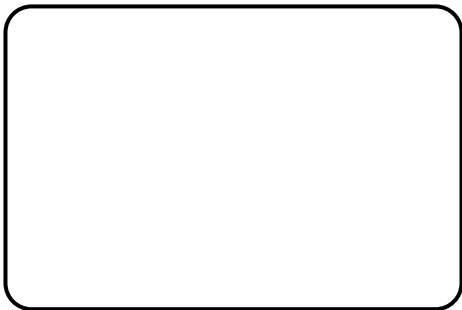


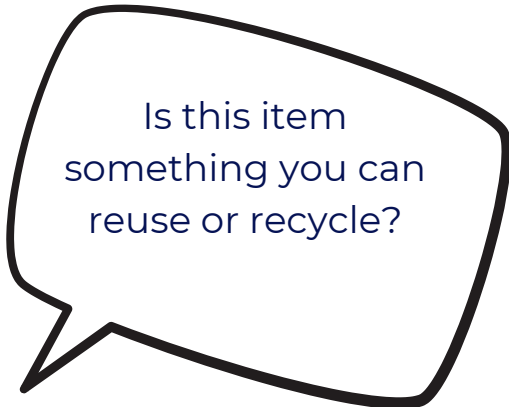
Think

Draw and write about a plastic item that you use.



Draw and write about a plastic item that you use.





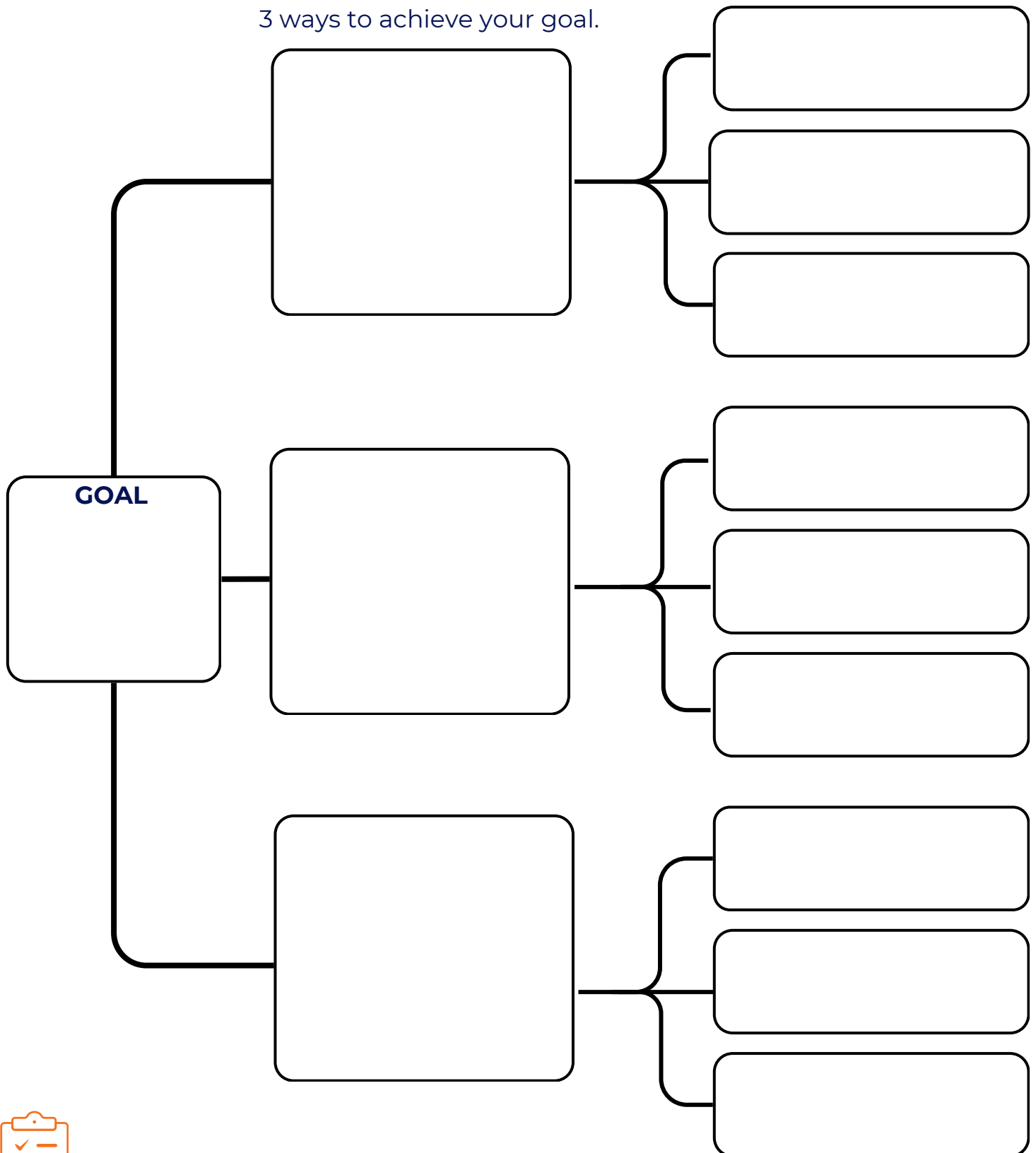
Is this item
something you can
reuse or recycle?



Plan

3 steps to achieve goal

3 ways to achieve your goal.



Action Checklist

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐



Celebrate

Why is it important to change how we use plastic?

What was your favorite part of this project?

What would you do different next time? Why?

