



# Save the Planet

# Sustainability

Year 6

Knowledge Organiser

## What is plastic?

Plastic is a human-made material that can be formed into almost any shape. Most plastics are strong, long-lasting and lightweight. They resist damage by water, heat, chemicals and electricity. Manufacturers often use plastics instead of more expensive materials and in many car body parts, plastic replaces metal.



## Why is plastic a problem for the environment?

Unfortunately, some of plastic's best properties, such as its durability and long-lasting life, are the things that cause problems in the environment. Unless recycled, they remain on our planet, clogging up landfills and making their way to the ocean. Plastic can take over 400 years to decompose (break down), and even then, it just gets smaller and ends up being swallowed by fish and other marine animals and birds and is eventually eaten by humans.



## Ways to reduce plastic waste

Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.



Switch to alternative reusable materials. Use **beeswax wraps** instead of clingfilm or plastic bags.



Avoid **plastic straws and cutlery**. Try **paper or metal reusable ones**.



**Bamboo** is 100% decomposable and can be used for **toothbrushes, lunch boxes and chopping boards**.



**Chewing gum** is also made of plastic! Try to buy less chewing gum and choose it in the correct **recycling container**. You can also choose **natural and organic** chewing gums.



If you have no choice but to buy a plastic bottle or a plastic container, **reuse it** instead of throwing it away. **Refill** water bottles and containers can be used to **store other food**.



Before buying new **pencils, pens and notebooks**, check if you have any at home. You'll reduce your plastic by **cutting down on the packaging** these items are often wrapped in.



Look out for **school supplies in plastic-free packaging**, like single pencils, erasers and pens.



Buy pencils **made of wood** instead of mechanical pencils, which are often made from (and packaged in) plastic.



If your school isn't already recycling plastic bottles and cans, **talk to your teachers** about how to start. Why not ask about setting up an **eco club** with your classmates to **make your school greener**?



Encourage classmates and staff members to have **plastic-free packed lunches**.



Talk to the headteacher and parent's association about selling **second-hand uniforms**.

## Evaluation of your fieldwork

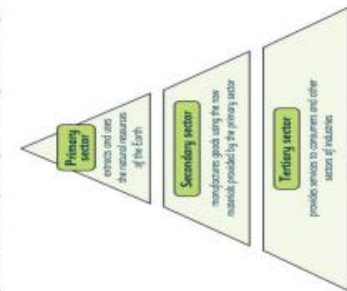
Evaluating your fieldwork is an important step so that you can learn from it. These are some questions you may want to ask yourself:

- What went well in your fieldwork?
- Did you use the right tools?
- What would you do differently if you did the fieldwork again?
- What else do you want to find out?



## Sectors of the UK economy

In the UK, economic activity can be split into **three different sectors: primary, secondary and tertiary**.



## Geography of the UK

The UK comprises **four countries**: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The **capital cities** of these countries are London, Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff. England is made up of nine regions shown in the map below:

