

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: PLASTIC AND RECYCLING

KEY FACTS

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- Plastics are man-made materials
- Plastics are made from natural materials such as oil, coal and wood
- Plastic is made when the raw materials are heated to a high temperature - they are then processed to form synthetic plastics
- There are lots of different types of plastic with lots of different uses - for example: furniture, toys, water bottles, bags and straws
- Plastics can be thick or thin; flexible or rigid; transparent or opaque
- Some plastics take hundreds of years to decompose and stay in the environment as rubbish for a very long time
- Some plastic waste forms islands in the ocean, known as trash islands or garbage patches, which are harmful to marine life
- Plastics are a valuable resource if we need to use them sensibly
- We can reduce our use of plastic by using an alternative, for example a reusable shopping bag
- We can recycle plastics so that they can be made into a new product
- We can reuse plastic that cannot be recycled, such as plastic bags and straws

TYPES OF TRANSPORT

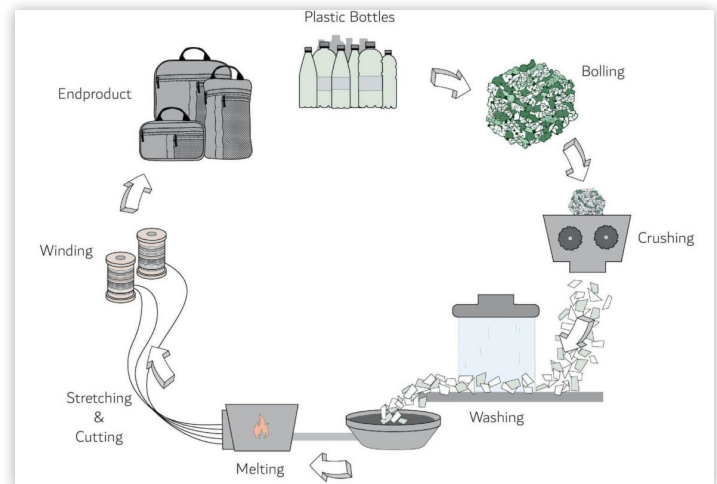


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WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY



OBSERVING



ASKING QUESTIONS



**COLLECTING AND RECORDING
DATA**



PRESENTING FINDINGS



WRITING SCIENTIFICALLY

KEY VOCABULARY



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- Man-made** – made by humans
- Synthetic** – made using a chemical
- Processed** – changed or preserved using a chemical
- Decompose** – make or become rotten
- Environment** – the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives
- Marine life** – plants, animals and other organisms that live in the salt water of the sea or ocean
- Raw materials** – the basic material from which a product is made

SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE



Isatou Ceesay dubbed “Queen of Recycling,” is a Gambian activist who started the One Plastic Bag movement in the Gambia. The project recycles plastic bags to make beautiful purses and handbags.