



Human impact on the environment

Useful Vocabulary

pollution	the introduction of harmful, non-biodegradable materials into the environment
litter	things that have been thrown away and that are lying on the ground
evaluate	to consider how well something has been done
variable	something that can be changed, measured or observed in an enquiry
biodegradable	an adjective used to describe a material that breaks down or decays naturally through the action of micro-organisms
compost	a mixture of decaying organic matter, used for fertilising soil
decompose	the process where bacteria and worms break down natural materials into tiny pieces that help new plants grow
environment	the natural world of land, sea, air, plants and animals
filter	to use a special tool or process to separate materials
fungi	a group of living things including mould, mushrooms and yeast
Micro-organism	any living thing too small to be viewed by the unaided eye
organism	a living thing

Who or what is affected by litter?

- Wildlife – animals can become trapped in litter or hurt themselves on sharp edges. Chewing gum can get stuck in their feathers or fur. Animals may eat plastic bags mistaking them for food which can get stuck inside them.
- Cost – litter costs money to clean up.
- Disease – litter can spread disease. Germs can be transmitted directly by physically coming into contact with litter. This is why we wear gloves when we handle litter.
- Environment – litter can clog up drains and sewers, so that water does not drain freely.
- Plants – litter can cover plants, affecting their growth.

How long will it take to decompose?



How do microplastics impact humans?

