**How did we get to a world full of plastic?**

1. **Prepare:** Go to [www.dict.cc](http://www.dict.cc) and translate the following words and phrases

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| prehistoric |  |
| geologic |  |
| hydrocarbons |  |
| convenient |  |
| durable |  |
| dependable |  |
| indestructible |  |
| discarded |  |
| incinerated |  |
| to break sth. down into sth. |  |
| fossil fuel |  |
| invisible to the naked eye |  |
| to turn upside down |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **Reflect:** 
   1. Think about your daily plastic use. Make a list of things that are   
      either made of plastic or packaged in plastic. (Think about the food you eat, the clothes you wear, but also about your surroundings.)
   2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of plastic? Make a list  
       of pros and cons.
2. **Listen:** Watch the following video and listen carefully. Add at least **three** new  
    words mentioned to your vocabulary list!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjIUp6A7GRU>

**A Brief History of How Plastic Has Changed Our World**

1. **Prepare:** Go back to dict.cc and translate

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| barely |  |
| cargo |  |
| versatile |  |
| leftovers |  |
| to go crazy for plastic |  |
| single-use |  |
| throwaway culture/ society |  |
| side effect |  |
| ailment |  |
| side note |  |
| toxic |  |
| to be suspicious of sth./sb. |  |
| acrylonitrile |  |
| to contaminate |  |
| contamination |  |
| landfill shortage |  |
| to lobby |  |
| climate skeptics |  |
| breakneck pace |  |
| to take a toll on sth./sb. |  |
| marine animal |  |
| to entangle |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **Listen:** Watch the following video and listen carefully. Add at least **five** new  
    words mentioned to your vocabulary list!   
    <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQdBag_p6kE>
2. **Revise:** Answer the following questions to the video you just watched. Write

full sentences and make sure to use words from your vocabulary lists!

1. Around when did modern plastic get its start and why/how?
2. What happened after WWII? Describe the development of how plastic became established in our society.
3. How much did global plastic production increase during the 60s?
4. What is acrylonitrile and what is problematic about it? How long was it used in food and beverage containers before it was finally banned in 1977?
5. What was the consequence of a landfill shortage in 1987? What is the “fourth R”? How does it relate to ships like “The Garbage Barge?
6. Why did San Francisco ban plastic bags in 2007?
7. How did powerful plastic lobbies intervene in 2015 and what are the consequences for humans, animals as well as the environment?
8. What can you as an individual but also society as a whole do to protect the environment?