

Reading Guide B:

10 Shocking Facts About Plastic Pollution

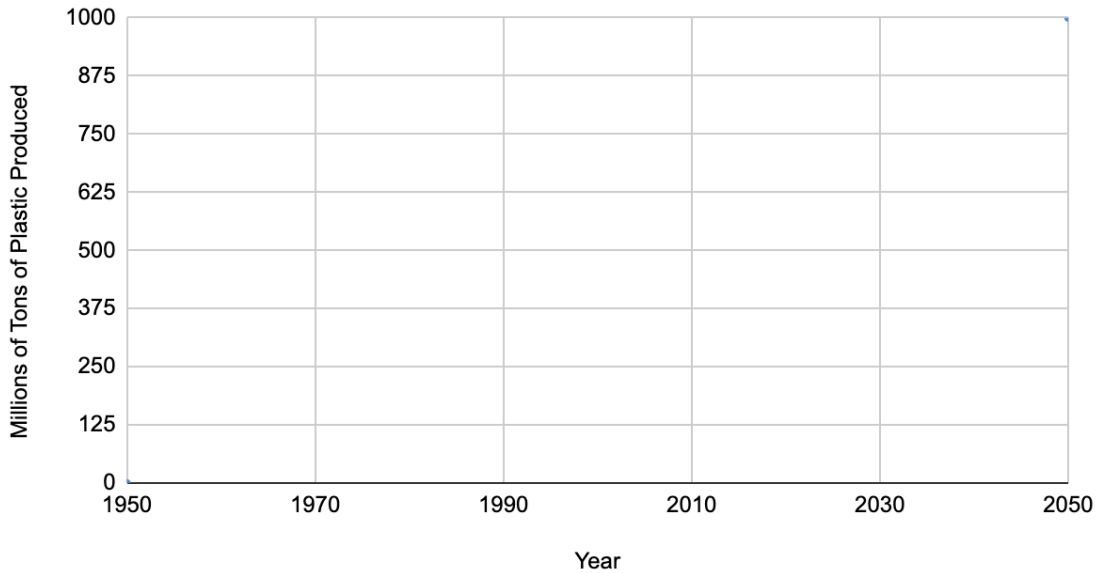
Website: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/plastic-facts/?ngscourse>

1. Scientists estimate that more than five trillion pieces of plastic are in the ocean. But how much is that, really? In what other ways can you express this number?

2. Worldwide, 73 percent of beach litter is plastics. Create a pie chart to represent this. What do you think the other 27 percent could be?

3. World plastic production has increased from 2.3 million tons in 1950 to 162 million in 1993 to 448 million in 2015. Make an estimate for what world plastic production will be in 2050, and justify your estimate. Do you think plastic production will ever start to decrease, and if so, why or why not?

Millions of Tons of Plastic Produced vs. Year



4. Only nine percent of plastic waste is recycled. Why do you think this number is so low? How could we increase the recycling rate of plastics?

5. How do the text and images in this resource work together to support your understanding of the issue? How can it serve as a model for your own unit project?

6. When you return to your project group, what information can you share with them from this resource about how to update and improve your model of ocean plastic transport?
