

Litter Less

Word	What it means
Emissions	something released (let into) the air
Resources	Supply or support of usually important items (food, water, etc.)

Plastic is useful, cheap, lightweight and easy to make. For these reasons, lots of plastic has been manufactured since it was invented in 1907 by Leo Hendrik Baekeland, a Belgian-born scientist living in America.

The **PROBLEM** with plastic is that our planet is not able to cope with the amount of plastic we make, use and throw away. Plastic is damaging life in our rivers and oceans, which in turn is harmful to people’s health.

Making and getting rid of plastic adds to greenhouse gas **emissions** and climate change. Climate change has the biggest effect on people with the least money or **resources** to deal with it.

Irish Aid supports climate action in countries around our world, for example by supporting programmes that train farmers on how to plant and grow crops that can survive floods (too much rain) and droughts (too little rain); or funding business like Dunia Design in Tanzania, a company that uses plastic and other waste to create beautiful furniture. This is one **SOLUTION**. Another solution is for all people, everywhere, to rethink the role of plastics in their lives.



In the image below we see a beach filled with **litter**. Litter is any trash, waste, or garbage lying about. There can be litter on the beach, street, in our oceans...all over! All the items you see in the picture below have a place they belong but it is **NOT** the beach.

We can cut down on the amount of litter in our seas and all around us if we **reduce, reuse, and recycle**.

For example,

- you can **reduce** (make less or decrease) the number of single use plastic bottles you buy by using a stainless-steel water bottle instead. Reducing your waste and use of plastic is the best option for our planet because you prevent creating waste in the first place!
- you can **reuse** items. That old tire on the beach could be turned into a tire swing; you can donate items to charity—the soccer ball below could be used by another girl or boy.
- You can **recycle** materials like glass, paper, plastic and metal. These can be put into special bins and/or taken directly to the recycling centre. Once there, they will be cleaned and turned into new materials again!

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COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

1. Look at the image. Circle all the things that could have come from your home.



2. Open your refrigerator/fridge. Count the number of plastic, glass and metal items your family will put in the bin when empty.

- How many can you find?
- Describe one thing that you or your family could do to reduce the amount of items that end up in the bin?
- Which of these items can be recycled?

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3. Brainstorm 4 ways you could **reuse** a plastic bottle. One example is below.



I could make a plastic bottle piggy bank

	
	
	
	

If you would like to make the plastic piggy bank above, check out the **want to take if further section on our website.**