



6

Go Green



## Explanation Game

**A** Look at the picture. Choose a thing or idea. What is it?

Let's choose the bridge.

OK!

**B** What do you notice about it? Tell your partner.

I notice that it's in  
between the trees.

And really high up!

**C** Why do you think it is that way?

So people can see  
the trees up close.

Maybe it's because ...

**D** What are some other reasons it might be that way?  
Share with the class.

Maybe there's a roller  
coaster on the other side.

**E** What do you do to help the environment? Make a list.  
Then discuss.

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**F** Think and discuss. Scan *Not-So-Fantastic Plastic* on the  
next pages. What do you think the author's purpose is?

Now read *Not-So-Fantastic Plastic*.





# NOT-SO-FANTASTIC PLASTIC

What are some things that are made of plastic in your life?

How much plastic is in your life? You're probably touching some right now: your water bottle, your pen, even your clothes. It's in our phones, our computers, and our cars. Food and drinks often come in plastic containers. Plastic is everywhere! It can be soft or hard, colorful or transparent. It can be made into any shape or size. Plastic is fantastic ... or is it?





Plastic is not a natural product. It's made from oil, like gasoline. It's not biodegradable; most of the plastic ever made still exists today. For more than sixty years, plastic has caused many problems for animals in all of the world's ecosystems. It has damaged habitats where animals live, and spread dangerous chemicals in water and soil. Our overuse of this material is causing an environmental disaster. We need to stop using so much plastic.

There's pollution on beaches around the world because of plastic. This makes the beaches dangerous for humans and animals. Billions of kilograms of plastic float in the world's oceans. Using evidence found around the world, scientists estimate that every year one million sea birds and 100,000 sea creatures die from eating plastic because they think it's prey. In some parts of the world, some grocery stores have stopped using plastic bags, and others ask customers to pay for them. All supermarkets should ban plastic bags.

There are two large garbage patches on opposite sides of the Pacific Ocean. Near the coasts, these two collections of plastic trash are hundreds of kilometers wide. From the water, they look a lot like plastic soup with bottles, bags, toys, toothbrushes, and other plastic items floating on the surface and trapped in the water below.



US

garbage

UK

rubbish

## Words in Context



Find these words in the reading. What do you think they mean?

degradable overuse disaster estimate ban garbage patches ignore



Scientific reports have shown that plastic waste in the oceans is entering the food chain. It breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, but it never completely disappears. Fish then eat the tiny particles, so if we eat fish, we might be eating tiny amounts of plastic, too.



According to a recent report, our demand for plastic is growing every year and by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

Recycling helps to solve the problem, and many people believe that most plastic is being recycled. Unfortunately, this is not true. Almost half of all plastic goes into landfills, where it won't break down for hundreds or even thousands of years. Only a very small amount is recycled, but all the rest is trash.





Many people also believe that they can't make a difference on their own, but they're wrong. We should avoid using plastic products like sandwich bags, takeout containers, straws, and juice boxes. We should recycle and reuse as much as possible in our homes, offices, and schools. If we all make changes, we can help the environment.

Some businesses are trying to reduce their plastic waste. They ask customers to bring their own bags and cups. This saves the businesses money and helps the environment. Some stores and cafés even give money back to say thank you to their customers for contributing.

It is clear that pollution is a global problem and it is too serious to ignore. We must all play our part in reducing our use of plastic. Everybody can help to protect our oceans, if we stop using disposable plastic today. If we don't take action now, our planet will be in great danger in the very near future.



How much can you recycle and reuse?



US	UK
takeout	takeaway



**A Read and write *Fact or Opinion*.**

- 1 Plastic is not biodegradable.
- 2 It's clear that we need to stop using so much plastic!
- 3 Sea creatures think plastic bags and containers are prey.
- 4 Supermarkets should ban plastic bags.
- 5 Plastic waste is entering the food chain.
- 6 Everybody can make small changes.

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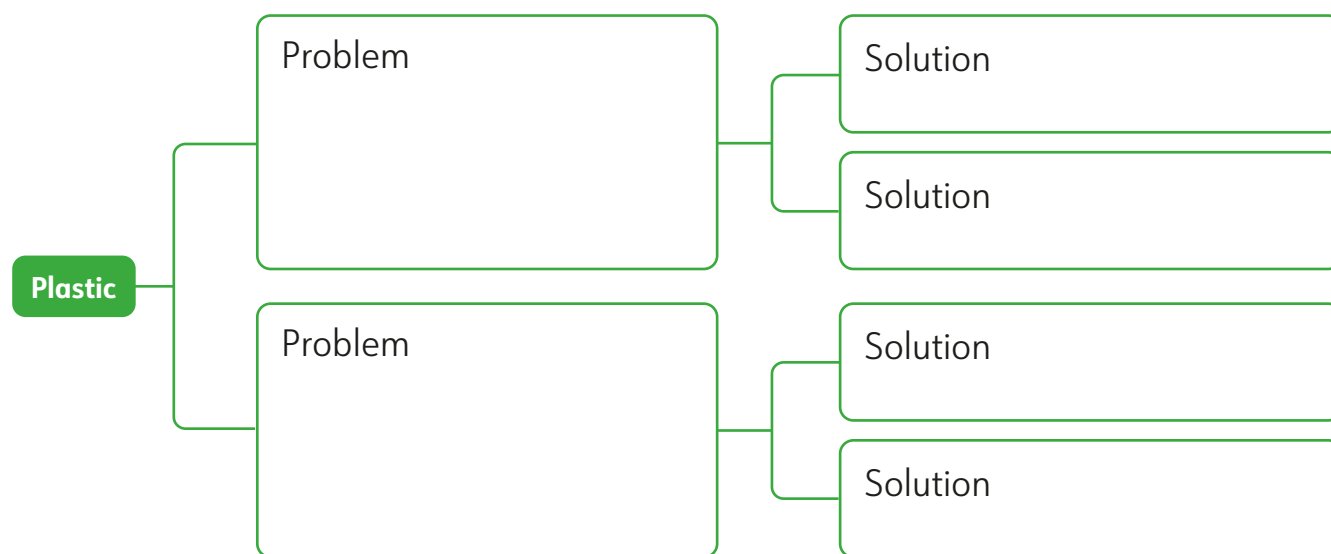
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**B Think and complete the graphic organizer. What problems do you think plastic causes? How can we solve those problems?****C Think and discuss. Imagine that in 2050 there is more plastic than fish in the water. What might happen to the ecosystem of the oceans?****Literary Term Word Choice: Variety**

Authors use a *variety* of words to capture a certain feeling or mood. Different words can make us feel, think, and visualize different things. Think of a situation for each sentence. Choose the best word for it. Then discuss.

- 1 The fresh honey tasted: ☐ good ☐ delicious ☐ gross ☐ sticky
- 2 The rock music was was: ☐ loud ☐ noisy ☐ quiet ☐ thundering
- 3 The horror movie was: ☐ scary ☐ boring ☐ horrifying ☐ bad
- 4 That comic book was: ☐ funny ☐ stupid ☐ silly ☐ nice



**A Read these summaries. Why did the authors write these texts? Think and discuss. Then check (✓).**



The Red-Headed League

One day, Mr. Wilson finds The Red-Headed League office closed. He visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Holmes visits Mr. Wilson's assistant, and Holmes realizes a crime is about to happen. With the help of the local police, Holmes and Watson stop the assistant from robbing the bank.

The author wrote this to: inform ☐ persuade ☐ entertain ☐



The Hero of Lime Rock

Ida Lewis was born in 1842, back when it was very unusual for a woman to row a boat. She had excellent rowing skills and she lived in a lighthouse. She was once called "the bravest woman in America" because she saved so many people's lives at sea.

The author wrote this to: inform ☐ persuade ☐ entertain ☐



Not-So-Fantastic Plastic

Plastics are causing problems for animals in all ecosystems, damaging their habitats, and spreading toxic chemicals into the water and earth. Our addiction to plastic is leading to a pollution disaster. Surely we need to stop using so much plastic.

The author wrote this to: inform ☐ persuade ☐ entertain ☐

Authors have a purpose when they write. The **author's purpose** is usually to inform, persuade, or entertain. Texts that inform try to teach us something. Texts that persuade try to change our opinion. Texts that entertain are for fun. Often there is more than one purpose.

**B Think and discuss. What different things have you read recently? How did they inform, persuade, or entertain you?**

**C Read and check (✓). Then discuss. Read the first stanza of *A Greener Life*. What do you think the author's purpose is? Why?**

Tired of the city, it was time for something new

Surrounded by concrete, in search of a different view.

"Let's move to the country," I told my kids and wife.

"If we care about this planet, we should live a greener life."

The author wrote *A Greener Life* to inform ☐ to persuade ☐ to entertain ☐.

Now read *A Greener Life*





# A GREENER LIFE



Tired of the city, it was time for something new,  
 Surrounded by concrete, in search of a different view.  
 "Let's move to the country," I told my kids and wife.  
 "If we care about this planet, we should live a greener life."



We sold all our possessions, all we had except the car,  
And bought a small cottage in a village not too far.  
At first the kids were miserable—they didn't want to move.  
They couldn't understand how our lives might improve.

**Rhythm** is the time it takes to say a line of poetry. It depends on the number of stressed syllables, not on the total number of syllables.




First, we dug a stream, deep in the ground,  
Then built a water wheel with wood that I found.  
The wheel turns and generates enough power  
To run the refrigerator each and every hour.

### Words in Context

 Find these words in the reading. What do you think they mean?

surrounded   possessions   miserable   generates   wind turbine   solar panels






Then I built a wind turbine as tall as a tree.  
With arms that turn and make wind energy.  
That power is turned into electricity  
So at night or without wind, we can still see.

We bought ourselves some chickens, sheep, and goats.  
We love the eggs and the milk—the sheep give us our coats.  
We started bee-keeping—the suits are so funny.  
We never buy sugar—we always have honey!

How did the sheep  
give them their coats?

We collect enough rain to cook, wash, and drink.  
When we're done cooking, we wash dishes in the sink.  
There's plenty of water but we don't use a lot,  
Solar panels on the roof make the water nice and hot.





We grow organic vegetables, fruit, and berries,  
We've learned to make jam with strawberries and cherries.  
We share with our neighbors, our food's all home-grown.  
We're out of the city but we're never alone.

We've become self-sufficient, with everything we need.  
Without the latest gadgets we have more time to read.  
The stresses of the world all fade away  
We live a simple life here—it's nature's way.

Everything was calm and simple, no cause for alarm.  
There must be others who would love our simple farm.  
We decided we had more to give  
And invited the city to share the way we live.

Have you ever tried to  
grow fruit or vegetables?  
Was it easy?



Now kids come in groups of up to thirty  
To visit us and get their hands and faces dirty!  
They travel here in buses from cities far and wide.  
Some haven't ever been to the countryside.

Where does honey come from? Some didn't know.  
Others helped dig to find out how potatoes grow.  
Sometimes we teach how milk becomes cheese  
And they get to eat apples they picked from trees!







We ask the kids to think about the kinds of food they ate,  
And about how it gets from the farm to their plate.  
We teach them how to grow good food for themselves,  
So they won't always rush to the supermarket shelves.

The visitors help us—they like working on the land  
They plant carrots, lettuce, and peppers by hand  
They collect eggs and feed the tiny baby sheep  
They milk the goats and watch the animals sleep.

We left the city and didn't look back  
We have all that we need, there's nothing we lack  
On our little farm there's so much to do  
We're living the green life and so can you!



**A Read and answer.**

1 Why did the family leave the city?

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2 How did they make energy for their new house?

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3 Which animals did they buy? Why?

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4 Where does their food come from?

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5 How do they feel without the latest gadgets?

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6 What do the visitors do on the farm?

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**B Read and complete the table. Then discuss. Describe the family's life in the city and on the farm. Which do you think is better? Support your answers with reasons.**

	In the City	On the Farm
Good		
Bad		

**C Think and discuss. Is your life more like the family's life before or after their move to the country? Look at B. Which sentences are true about your life?**



## What can we do in our own lives to help the environment?

**A** Think and write. What does each reading say about these topics?

Topic	<i>Not-So-Fantastic Plastic</i>	<i>A Greener Life</i>
water		
clothes		
animals		
supermarkets		
helping the environment		

**B** What changes can you make for a greener life? Do a Rally Robin. Make a list.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**C** Choose one idea from **B**. Think and write. What steps can you take to make this change?

### Steps

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____

### My Reading Journal

Did anything in the two readings in this unit surprise you?

_____
_____

Do you think it's possible to live a completely green life? Why or why not?

_____
_____

Choose an object from the unit. Then play the Explanation Game.