

8 Need-to-Know Things

PLASTIC



1

HOW MUCH?

2

BOTTLES

3

BAGS

4

STRAWS

5

CUPS

6

PACKAGING

7

RECYCLING

8

LANDFILLS

PLASTIC

**1****MEASURING UP**

In 2016, world plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons.^[1] Roughly half of our global annual plastic production is destined for a single-use product.^[2]

2**BOTTLES**

Humans buy about 1,000,000 plastic bottles per minute in total.^[3] U.S. 50 billion a year. Only about 23% of plastic bottles are recycled within the U.S.^[4]

3

It is estimated that 4 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually. Only 1% of plastic bags are returned for recycling.^[6] Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags annually. That's about 307 bags per person! All that waste can be eliminated by switching to reusable shopping bags.^[7]

4**STRAWS**

Half a million straws are used in the world every day.^[8] Refusing straws is becoming a trending practice!

5**CUPS**

500 billion disposable cups are consumed every year.^[9] Americans alone throw away 25 billion styrofoam coffee cups every year. Styrofoam cannot be completely recycled. Most of the Styrofoam disposed of today will still be present in landfills 500 years from now.^[10]

6**PACKAGING**

The main cause for the increase in plastic production is plastic packaging. Plastic packaging was 42% of all non-fiber plastic produced in 2015, and it also made up 52% of plastics thrown away.

7**RECYCLING**

Single-use-plastics frequently do not make it to a landfill or are recycled.^[11] A full 32% of the 78 million tons of plastic packaging produced annually is left to flow into our oceans; the equivalent of pouring one garbage truck of plastic into the ocean every minute.

8**LANDFILLS**

when single-use plastics are sent to landfills (there are 3,091 active landfills in the U.S. alone), they aren't harmless. Landfill liners can leak harmful pollutants into the watershed and plastics on the tops of landfills can be carried away by the wind.^[13]

10 Need-to-Know Things

EARTH



1

MEASURING UP

If the Sun were as tall as a typical front door, Earth would be the size of a nickel.

2

THIRD ROCK

Earth orbits our Sun, a star. Earth is the third planet from the Sun at a distance of about 93 million miles (150 million km).

3

AS THE WORLD TURNS

A day on Earth is 24 hours. Earth makes a complete orbit around the sun (a year in Earth time) in about 365 days.

4

WE'RE ON IT

Earth is a rocky planet with a solid and dynamic surface of mountains, canyons, plains and more. Most of our planet is covered in water.

5

BREATHE EASY

Earth's atmosphere is 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and 1 percent other ingredients—the perfect balance to breathe and live.

6

OUR COSMIC COMPANION

Earth has one moon.

7

RINGLESS

Earth has no rings.

8

ORBITAL SCIENCE

Many orbiting spacecraft study the Earth from above as a whole system—observing the atmosphere, ocean, glaciers, and the solid earth.

9

HOME, SWEET HOME

Earth is the perfect place for life as we know it.

10

PROTECTIVE SHIELD

Our atmosphere protects us from incoming meteoroids, most of which break up in our atmosphere before they can strike the surface.

**RESEARCH AND SHARE SOME OTHER FACTS
ABOUT THE EARTH**