

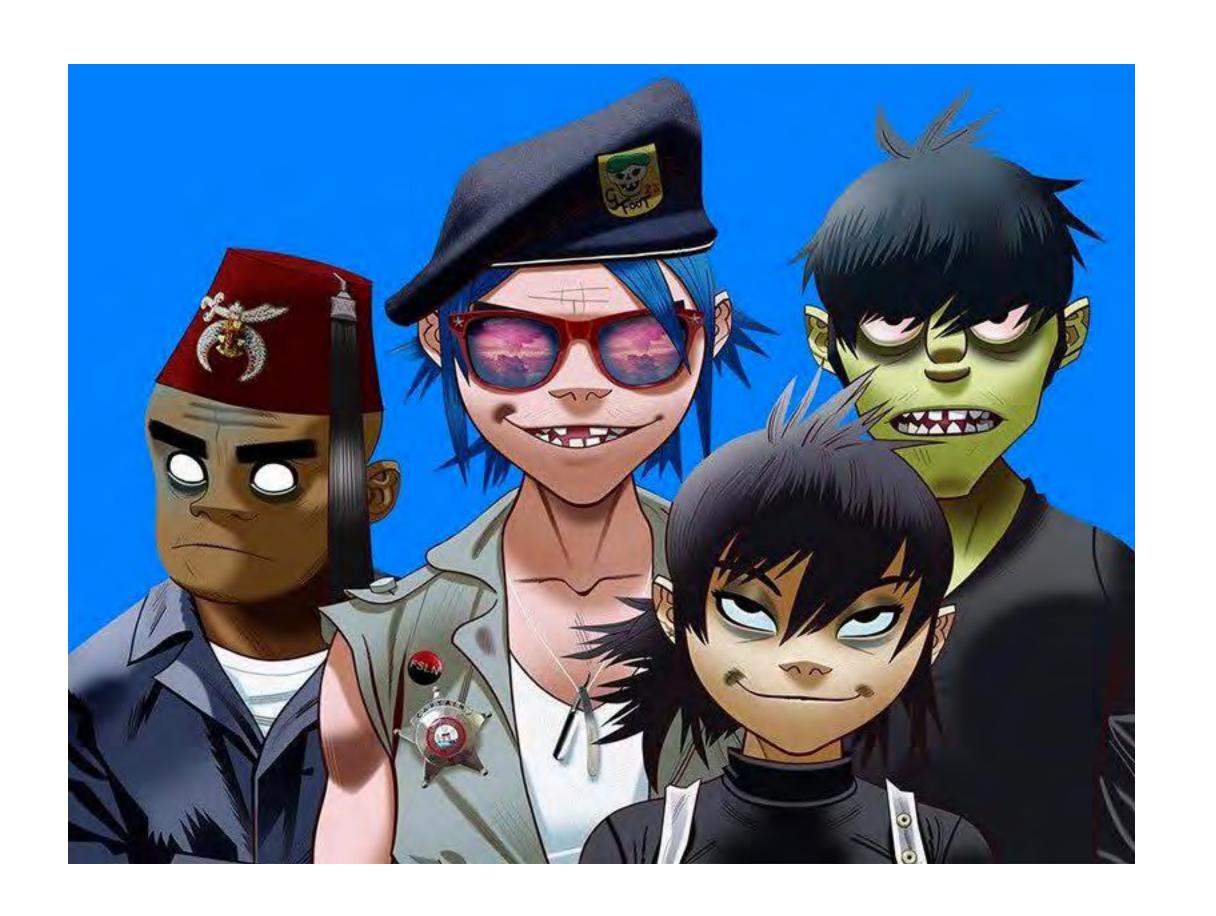
Have you ever wondered how plastic affects the marine environment?

ور المساور ال

In this lesson you will:

- Discover how plastic is made
- Understand how plastic affects sea animals
- Find out what you can do to fight plastic waste
- Learn the motivation behind the Gorillaz album Plastic Beach

In 2010, Damon Albarn, who cocreated the animated band Gorillaz, saw plastic trash washing up on a beach. He was so disturbed by the sight that he chose to turn the Gorillaz' attention toward ideas of pollution.





#### PLASTIC BEACH

Follow along with some of the lyrics here to the Gorillaz song "Plastic Beach" as you listen to the song here.

#### Consider or ask a friend:

 Have you ever heard of a Casio? What do you think the Gorillaz might be referring to with the term "casio"?

والمناز المناز ا

- Why would someone throw a Casio away?
- What would you say is the mood of this song?



Watch this video to learn about the history of plastic and how plastic is made.

Some important terms to remember:

**Monomer:** a molecule that can be bonded to other identical molecules to form a polymer.

ىكى ئەركىلىكى ئ

**Polymer:** a substance that has a molecular structure made up of many monomers.

#### Consider or ask a friend:

- What are three things you learned about in this video?
- How long have plastics been in existence?
- What are the benefits of plastics?
- What are the drawbacks?
- What are some ways to address the plastic pollution problem?



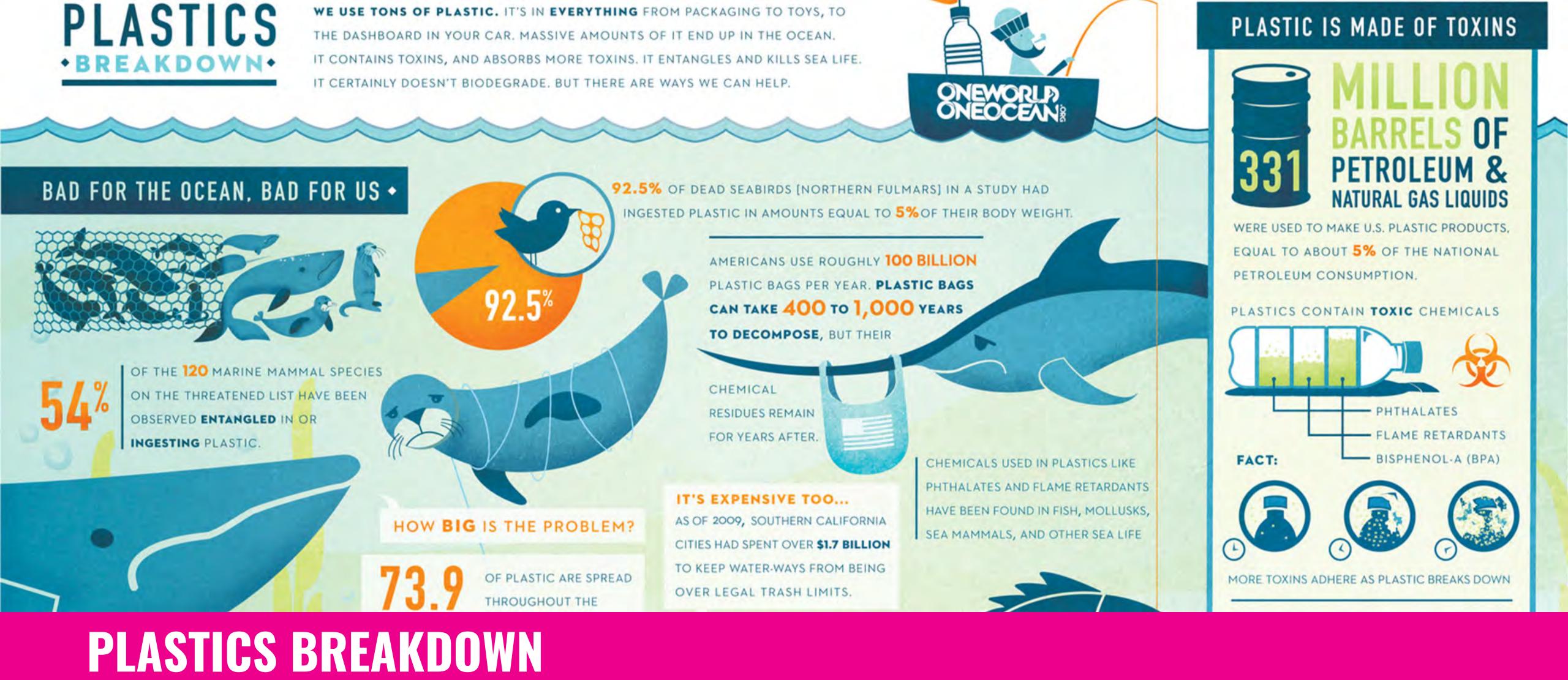
#### PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN

Examine this infographic to see how much plastic goes into the ocean each year.

After looking at the infographic, consider or ask a friend:

- How many metric tons of plastic waste goes into the ocean?
- What are some of the reasons why plastic in the oceans create problems?

rolling the property of the control of the control



Look at this infographic to see the ways plastic affects the ocean.

After looking at the infographic, consider or ask a friend:

- What are three facts you learned after looking at this infographic?
- Did you encounter any words you didn't know the meaning of? Could you use context clues to help you guess what they mean?

Did you find any of the facts on this infographic especially shocking? Which ones?



#### 9 WAYS YOU CAN REDUCE OCEAN PLASTIC

Learn about what steps you can take to reduce plastic waste with this infographic.

# SUMMARY

Today's plastic is created using oil byproducts through a chemical process

- Plastic has a negative effect on marine animals and on humans too
- We can all do more to reduce our use of plastics and to help the environment

### BE CREATIVE

Look back at this infographic. Using the ideas listed in the infographic as inspiration, write or draw an action plan that describes 2-5 actions you can take in your everyday life to help curb plastic pollution.

Make a video of yourself doing things to help reduce the use of plastics and help our environment.

## BE CREATIVE

Draw and share your own beautiful polymer!

- Take a look at the polymer examples here and here.
- Watch this video to learn more about shading spherical objects.
- Choose the two colors that you will use.
- Create your own polymer strings by choosing your own alternating pattern and line curve.

## BE CREATIVE

Create a colorful poster to share what you have learned in this lesson and how we can all help our environment.

### BE CURIOUS

Check out the links below to learn more about plastic and what you can do to help the environment:

**Plastic Pollution Coalition** 

**National Geographic: Planet or Plastic?** 

**Break Free From Plastic** 

The Ocean Conservancy

The United Nations: Beat Plastic Pollution

Green Education Foundation: Tips to Use Less Plastic

**Lonely Whale** 

# CONNECT

Share your action plan, drawing, or poster with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with Teach Rock on Instagram or Facebook, email to info@teachrock.org, or Tweet it to @TeachRock

"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has literal meaning, we are all in the same boat."

Jacques Cousteau, Oceanographer



