

## BIG NEWS

# STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION!

**THIS July, the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) wants us all to take part in a challenge to use less plastic.**

### The plastic pollution problem

Every year, the MCS charity gathers information on what is polluting UK beaches. During last year's Big Beach Clean, about 143 pieces of plastic were found on every 100 metres of beach that was surveyed.

We all know that plastic pollution is terrible for our wildlife. Seabirds get tangled in the plastic on our beaches. Animals like turtles, dolphins and whales confuse plastic for food. Scientists have estimated that by 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish. Although plastic can be a very useful material, it's time to change our 'throwaway' habits.

### How can you help?

It can seem overwhelming to tackle a problem this big. Our lives are filled with so many plastic products, it's hard to know where to start.

So, for July's big plastic challenge, the charity is asking us all to think of one type of single-use plastic that we use, and cut it out completely. What could you cut out? Here are a few suggestions.

- Swap liquid soap that comes in bottles for bars of soap that come in cardboard packets.
- Only buy loose fruit and veg. You might need to find a local market!
- Don't use one single plastic bag in July – always have a small fold-up bag with you.
- Re-use yoghurt pots as plant pots and grow some seeds.
- Go without crisps for a month. Seriously. Could you do it?

### Find out more

You can find lots more details and ideas at:  
[www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/plastic-challenge-home](http://www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/plastic-challenge-home)



## Questions on: 'Stop plastic pollution'

1) What is the name of the charity organising the Plastic Challenge?

2) What was found out during last year's Big Beach Clean?

3) In which order do the **sub-headings** appear?

- Find out more
- The plastic pollution problem
- How can you help?

4) What does the journalist say "we all know"?

5) Find three examples of single-use plastics.

1: .....

2: .....

3: .....

6) The writer says that the problem of plastic pollution can seem '**overwhelming**'. What do you think this means?

7) Which of the suggestions do you think you could try, realistically?

8) What could you choose or use instead of these single-use plastic items?

	A choice that doesn't include single-use plastic
A plastic shopping bag	
Handwash in a plastic bottle	
A bag of lemons in a plastic net	
A drink in a plastic bottle	