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MARINE LIFE IN MALTA



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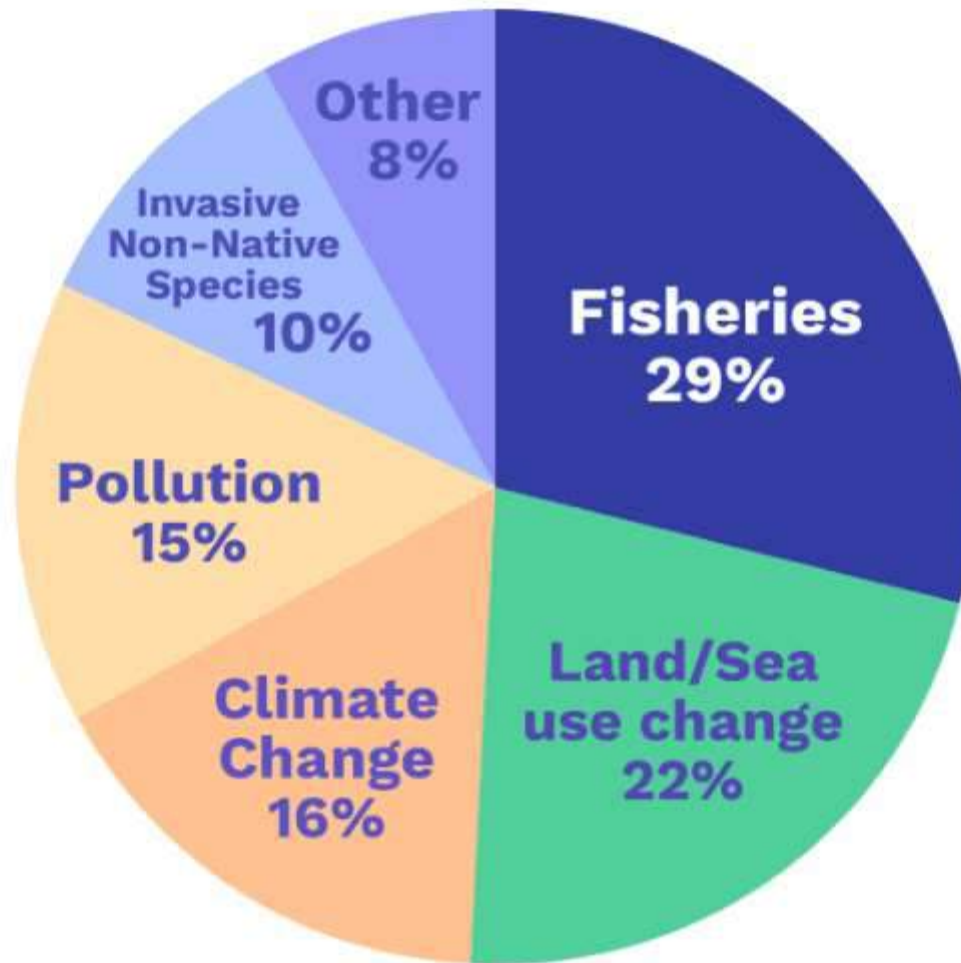


Creative Youth Malta

Do you think we have beautiful Marine Life in Malta?



Threats to Marine Systems



Source: IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019.
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

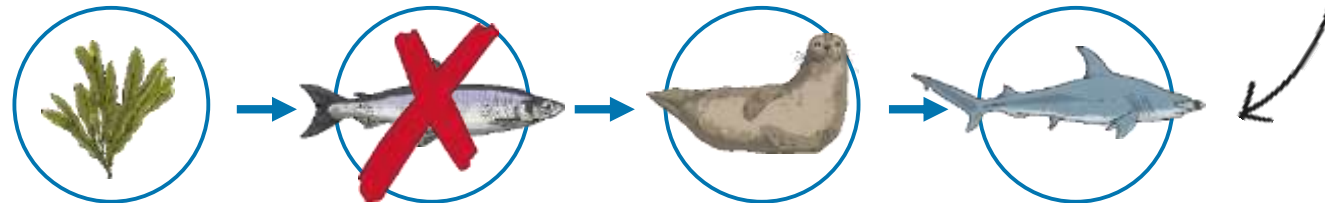
OVERFISHING

As humans, we are causing harm to our blue planet in these ways:

Overfishing

This is when too many fish are caught. If people catch too many fish, this affects many living things in the ocean.

Living things all need to survive. Some creatures that live in the ocean eat plants, others eat different living things. This is called a food chain. If one part of the food chain is broken (like a type of fish being removed from the ocean by overfishing), then other things may not survive because they won't have food.





Sea Pollution

What is Pollution?

Pollution is anything that is introduced into a habitat which has a harmful effect on plants and animals living there.



What is Sea Pollution?

Sea pollution is a form of water pollution.

It is the negative result of harmful things ending up in the sea.

There are different human activities that cause sea pollution, such as:

- Oil Spills
- Sewage
- Plastics



Sewage

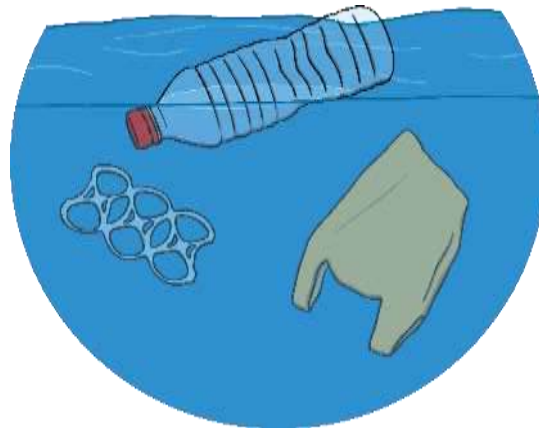
- Sewage is flushed directly into streams and rivers in many areas around the world.
- Sewage can introduce harmful bacteria that can make people and animals very sick.

What Is Plastic?

Plastic is a very useful material that we use for many different everyday items because it is **cheap to make**, **strong** and **doesn't fall apart easily**.

However, these properties also mean it is very harmful to our environment because there is **so much of it around**, **animals get hurt by it** and it **doesn't rot down easily in the soil**.

Plastic is not natural; it is human-made. It is usually made from fossil fuels, such as crude oil.



Did You Know?

Every second, 160,000 plastic bags are used around the world.

The image is a composite of two photographs. The left side shows a clear plastic bag floating on the surface of the ocean. The right side shows a dead sea turtle with its mouth open, revealing a large amount of clear plastic debris inside its stomach. The background is a deep blue ocean with some green algae visible at the bottom.

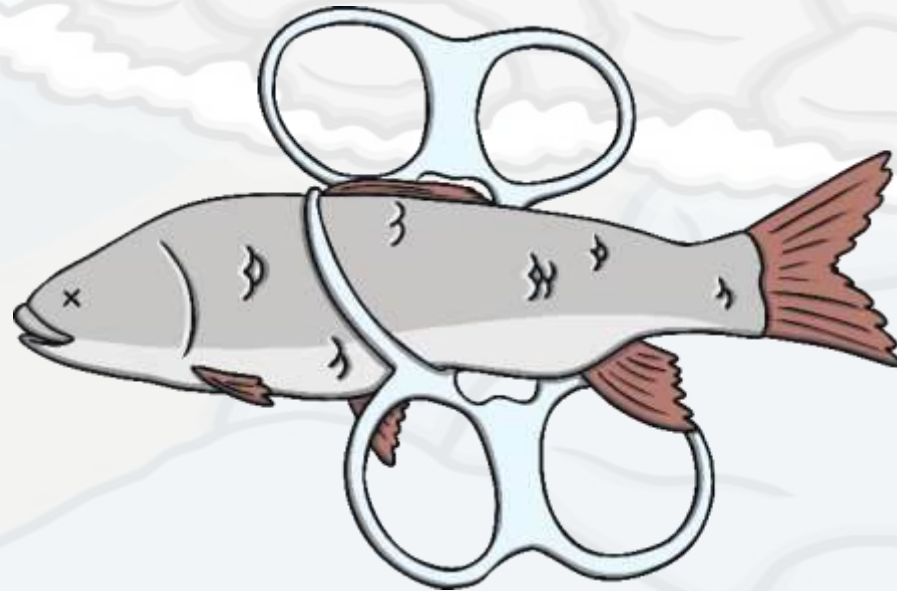
Plastic is a deadly threat to
marine life...

Why is Plastic Harmful?

Plastic is harmful for both humans and wildlife.

Animals get confused and eat plastic because they think it is food.

They get trapped in litter and are hurt or even die.



The Biggest Problem with Plastic

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the [pollution](#) and damage it does to the environment.

Plastic breaks into tiny pieces which then get blown around by the wind and the rain.

They end up in our streams, rivers and the seas.

Plastic is [toxic](#) for the world's water and land, causing harm to the fish, animals and birds. Even glitter is toxic for living things.



Photo courtesy of ([@flickr.com](#)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

These [microbeads](#) are easily eaten by fish and other sea animals. It can make them very ill or even kill them.

They can make us ill if we eat the fish.



Single-Use Plastic

- A big problem that the environment is facing is that most of us use and then toss away more plastic than we need: things like grocery bags, drink bottles, straws, food wrappers, and plastic packaging around toys.
- This kind of plastic that's used only once before being thrown away is called single-use plastic, and it makes up more than 40 percent of all plastic rubbish.
- This is the plastic that ends up in our seas and oceans.

All Living Things



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Photo courtesy of (@[noaa.gov](https://www.noaa.gov)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution



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Think about it

What do you think about these pictures?

All living things should be able to live free from pollution and harm from plastics. So, what can we do?

Make Your Choice

Look at these two pictures. Which do you think is the right thing to use, to help the environment?



Photo courtesy of (@[Wikipedia.org](#)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution



Photo courtesy of (@[pixabay.com](#)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Instead of using lots of water bottles and throwing them away, buy a reusable water bottle. It is cheaper too!

Make Your Choice

Look at these two pictures. Which do you think is the right bag to use, to help the environment?



Photo courtesy of ([@pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution



Photo courtesy of ([@flickr.com](https://flickr.com)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Instead of using thin plastic carrier bags and throwing them away, buy a bag for life and keep using it. It's cheaper too!

Make Your Choice

Look at these two pictures. Which do you think is the right to do, to help the environment?



Photo courtesy of (@[geograph.ie](#)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution



Photo courtesy of (@[Columbus.af.mil](#)) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Instead of throwing plastic away, recycle it in the proper places.

You Can Make a Difference

We can all help to clean up the planet, by making small changes.

You can make a difference just by making different choices.



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Photo courtesy of (@pexels.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution



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Let's all work together to make the earth a healthier and cleaner place for everything.

Plastic Pollution in the Deepest Ocean



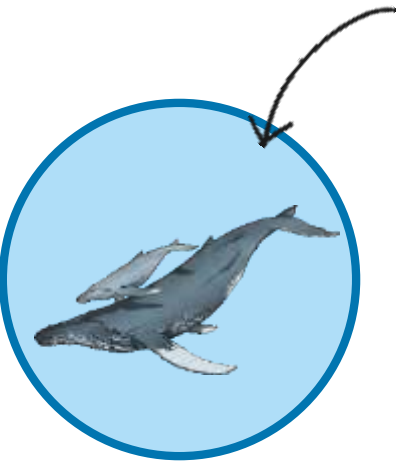
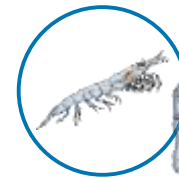
What Are We Doing?

Plastic pollution

This is when plastic gets into the seas and pollutes, or harms, the living things.

When a person eats a prawn which has swallowed plastic, that person has also eaten some of the plastic.

- Big pieces of plastic in the sea, like plastic bags, can harm the creatures as turtles and dolphins can get tangled in them.
- Sometimes, sea creatures eat plastic as they mistake it for food. If a whale eats plastic, it can't work its way through the body, so it would stay in the whale's stomach, meaning there wouldn't be enough room for food.
- Plastics can also start to break down into tiny pieces in the sea; this means that plastic gets into our food chain and lots of living creatures start to eat plastic, even you and me.



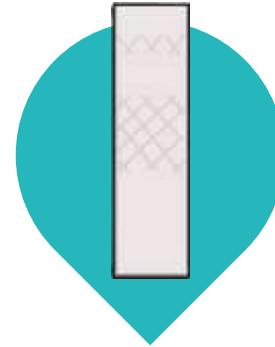
The Time It Takes for Litter to Breakdown



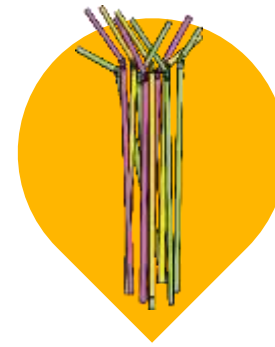
Cigarette butts
2-5 years



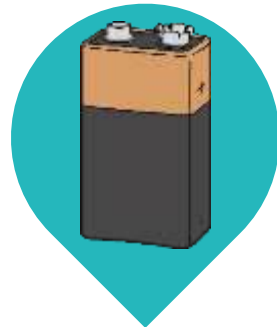
Plastic bags
10-30 years



Chewing gum
20-25 years



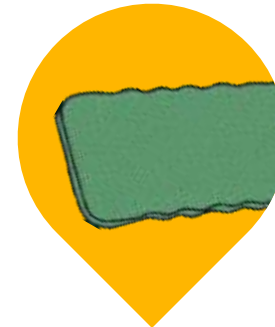
Plastic straws
50 years



Batteries
100 years



Aluminium cans
200 years



Styrofoam
500 years



Bycatch

- Wherever there is fishing, there is bycatch—the **incidental capture of non-target species** such as dolphins, marine turtles and seabirds.

Example of Bycatch Video

- Spotted Catshark
- Common Stingray

The Solution

- To use selective fishing methods such as spearfishing and line fishing.
- Buy fish from a trusted fisherman who uses sustainable methods of fishing.

How to avoid Bycatch ?



What will happen if nothing
drastically changes?



What Can We Do?

Join a river clean-up.



Support bans on single-use plastics.



Reduce and recycle



Ask shops and restaurants if they have plastic-free alternatives.



How Can You Help?

There are lots of ways we can help protect our beautiful blue planet:



Recycle things, rather than throw them away.



Stop using lots of plastics that could end up in the seas (even wet wipes can contain small amounts of plastic).



Eat sustainable fish (that means fish that isn't allowed to be overfished, so we don't run out).



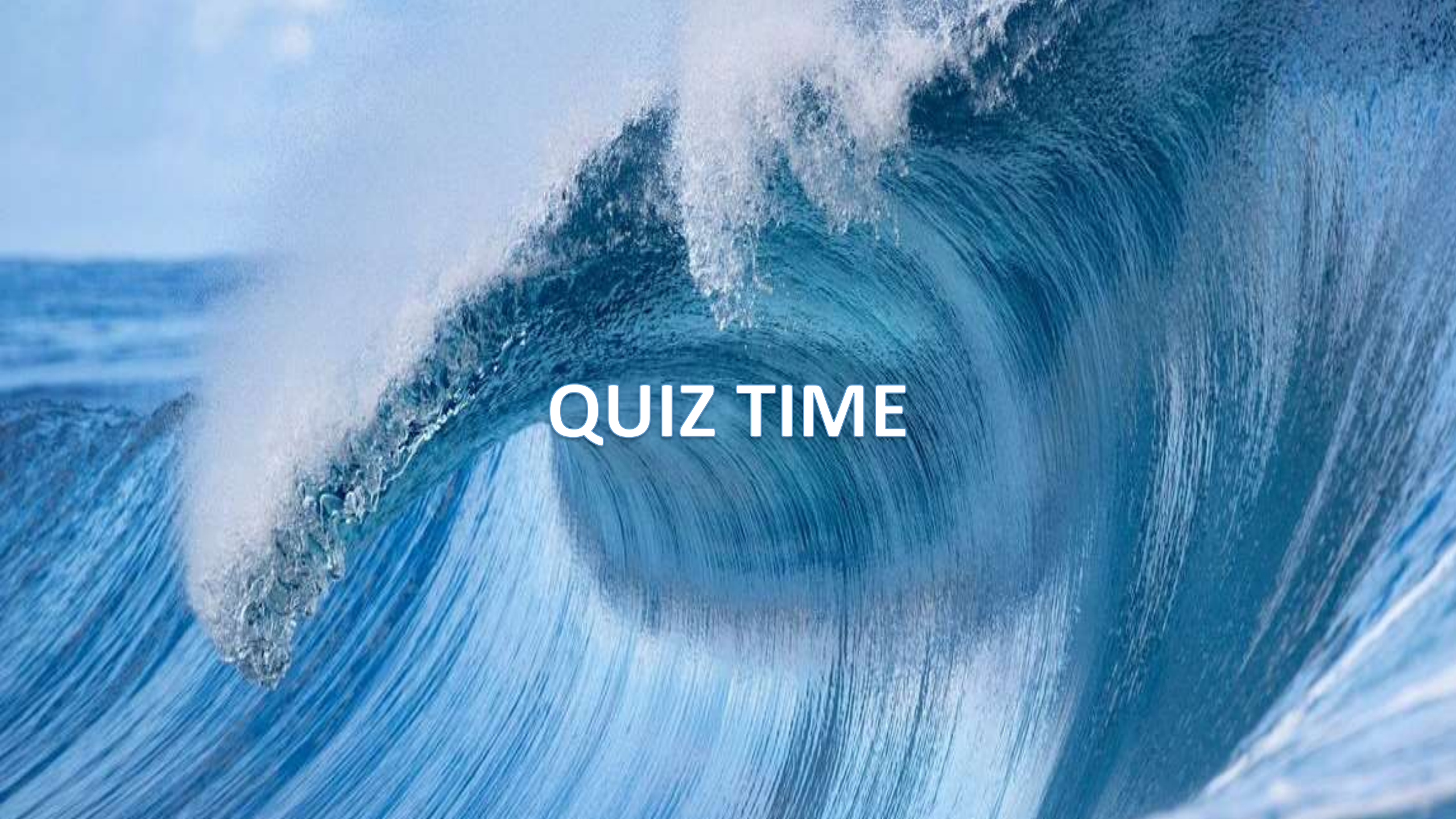
Help spread the message about looking after our oceans and recycling.

What Can You Do to Help?

Go on a litter-pick. Some councils give out free litter-picking equipment to volunteers and will collect the rubbish that you pick up.



Reject, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics. Think about all the rubbish thrown away in your house. Can you stop buying some plastic items? Can you reuse single-use plastics as something else (a bird feeder or plant pot, for example)? Can you give old plastic toys to a charity shop or a friend?

A close-up, low-angle shot of a massive blue wave crashing. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and the crest is breaking into a thick, white foam. The wave's surface is covered in fine, radiating lines, suggesting rapid movement and turbulence. The background shows a clear blue sky and the horizon line in the distance.

QUIZ TIME

1. What is overfishing?

- A) Fishing only large fish
- B) Catching more fish than can be replaced
- C) Fishing in the deep sea
- D) Catching fish with a net



2. What is a common consequence of overfishing?

- A) Cleaner oceans
- B) More jobs for fishermen
- C) Collapse of fish populations
- D) Larger fish



3. Which type of fishing is considered more sustainable?

- A) Bottom trawling
- B) Dynamite fishing
- C) Line fishing
- D) Drift netting



4. What is a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

- A) A fishing harbor
- B) A place where fishing is unrestricted
- C) A zone where marine life is protected
- D) A type of boat





5. How can consumers help reduce overfishing?

- A) Eat more seafood
- B) Buy cheap fish
- C) Choose sustainably sourced fish
- D) Avoid fish altogether



Answers

- 1. What is overfishing?
- Answer: B) Catching more fish than can be replaced
- 2. What is a common consequence of overfishing?
- Answer: C) Collapse of fish populations
- 3. Which type of fishing is considered more sustainable?
- Answer: C) Line fishing
- 4. What is a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?
- Answer: C) A zone where marine life is protected
- 5. How can consumers help reduce overfishing?
- Answer: C) Choose sustainably sourced fish

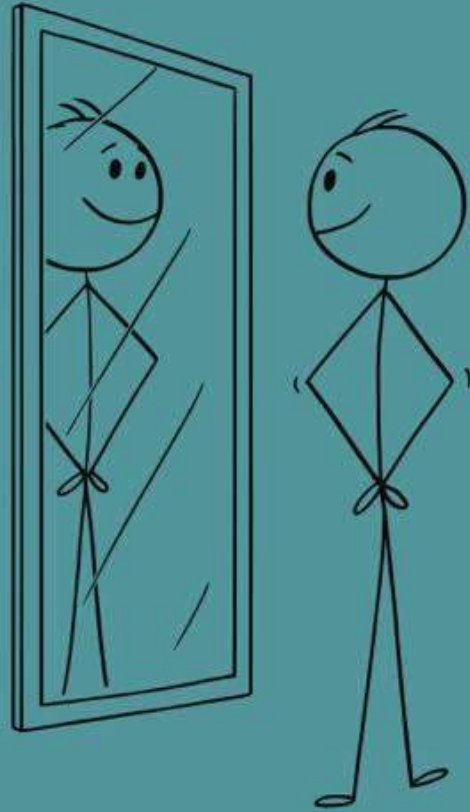
The End



malta_ginger_mermaid



TIME FOR REFLECTIONS...



**Increased
self-awareness**

**Greater sense
of control**

**Improved
communication
skills**

**Deeper alignment
with core values**

**Better decision-
making skills**

**Greater
accountability**

BENEFITS OF SELF-REFLECTION

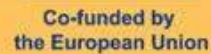
REFLECTIONS...

- What are you proud of about yourself?
- Who inspires you?
- What are you grateful for?
- What made you smile today?





This activity allows to participate in active self-reflection & self-discovery while creating visual art from various images.



**HOW DO YOU
FEEL ABOUT THE
CLIMATE CHANGE?**

**HOW WOULD I LIKE
THE PLANET TO LOOK
IN THE FUTURE?**

**WHAT CHANGES CAN I
MAKE IN MY LIFE TO
HELP THE PLANET?**

**HOW CAN I INSPIRE
OTHERS TO CARE
FOR THE PLANET?**