**Plastic Pros and Cons**

**Key Stage 2**

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| Plastic is made from petrochemicals. | Oil and natural gas that are used to make plastics are not renewable; once they are used they cannot be replaced. |
| Some plastics can be recycled. | Plastics can be moulded in different shapes. |
| May items contain plastic but it can’t be seen. | If left in the environment, plastics break down into tiny little pieces, called microplastics. |
| Plastic does not biodegrade. | No animals, minibeasts or microbes can digest plastic. |
| There are many different types of plastic, containing many different chemicals. | 40% of all plastics made are used in packaging, which is very quickly thrown away. |
| Less than a fifth of all plastic in the world is recycled. | Making plastic uses oil, water and heat energy. |
| In the UK, 38.5 million plastic bottles are used every day. | Supermarkets in the UK do not automatically give out plastic carrier bags anymore. |
| A fleece jacket can be made from 25 plastic bottles. | When clothing containing plastic is washed, tiny microfibres are released into waterways and they cannot be filtered out. |
| Many plastics are either burned in incinerators or buried in landfill sites. | Bakelite, the first commercially successful totally synthetic plastic was invented by Leo Baekeland on February 5, 1909. |
| Plastic can be used to make toys, mobile phones, televisions and games consoles. | Now that many cars have plastic parts and components, they are lighter and use less fuel. |