

Plastic gets into the sea in a number of ways...

- Dropped elsewhere deliberately and blown into a river or watercourse, eventually reaching the sea.
- Not disposed of properly so never gets to recycling or landfill.
- Blown directly into the water from the seashore.
- Dropped at sea by boats and shipping.

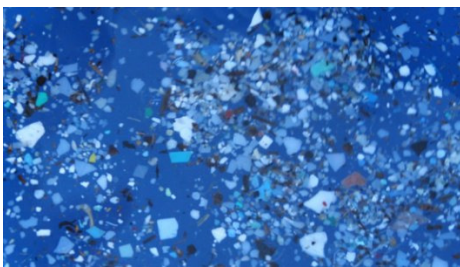


Once a plastic bottle or bag reaches the beach – if it isn't picked up it can get carried away by the tide.

It's caught up in swirling currents far out at sea. Waves and sunshine break it down into smaller and smaller bits of plastic...



What's left gets mixed up with millions of other bits of plastic, turning the sea – in places – into something resembling a plastic soup...



In some places there's six times more plastic than plankton. Plastic bags that haven't broken down look like jellyfish – which turtles love to eat.



Turtles eat the plastic bags, suffocate and die.



The picture below is what made me decide to write the story of Tuamor the Turtle...



Turtles and sea creatures across the world are eating plastic by accident and dying as a result.

THE PLASTIC PERIL



We produce **five times** as much plastic as we did **50** years ago. Over the last **10 years** we've produced more plastic than during the whole of the **last century**.

It now accounts for **10%** of the total waste we generate.

50% of plastic we use, is **used just one** and then thrown away.

35 billion plastic water bottles a year are thrown away in USA.

In the UK **2 million** plastic bottles are used every day.

The UK uses **600,000 tonnes** of plastic every year

Worldwide **500 billion** plastic bags are used – more than one million every minute.

A plastic bag has an average use life of **15/20** minutes.

50% of plastic in the UK is recycled, but that means half of it is still going to landfill or falling into waste streams in to the sea and lying as rubbish.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT TURTLES?

They're a symbol of peace and good luck.

They've been around for 220 million years, since the time of dinosaurs.

They swim in uncharted water, often unseen by people.

In popular culture they're shown as easy going, patient and wise.

They swim or migrate thousands of miles.

They can live more than 100 years.

They're beautiful, gentle creatures.



There are seven species of sea turtle:

The **Leatherback**, is the biggest at up to 2 metres. It can weigh up to 900 kg, as much as a water buffalo.



Loggerhead, 1.25 metres, and around 200 kg.

Green sea turtle, 1.25 metres, 90 kg.

Australian flatback 1 metre, 90 kg.

Hawksbill, 88 cm, 75 kg.

Kemp's ridley, 76 cm, 45 kg.

Olive ridley, 76 cm, 43 kg.

All are on vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered lists.

Only **1 in 1,000** sea turtle hatchlings survive to be adults of 30 years plus. Many are eaten as eggs and as they're hatched – by gulls, fish and crabs. They get caught in boat lines and oily water, and more of the land where they nest is being built on.

Sea turtles lay **100 or so eggs**, 3 to 7 times during nesting.

Males spend all their life at sea. Females go back to their home beach to nest.

They have pointed bits in their mouth which pierce jellyfish. They're immune to the stings. They have spines in their throat which pull the jelly fish down. If they swallow a plastic bag, it gets caught on the spines in their throat and they suffocate.

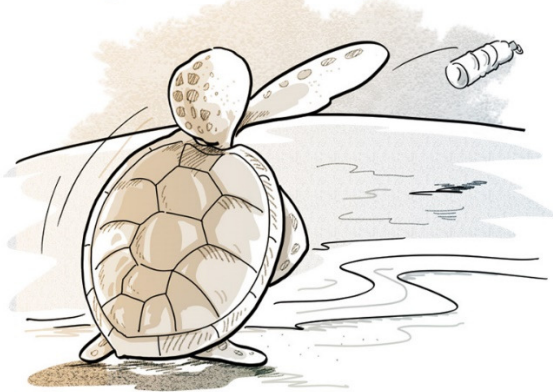
They can stay underwater for hours, rising for air every 20 mins.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Don't leave rubbish where it may get washed into the sea.
- Recycle more.
- Use less plastic in the first place.



Try Using All Means Of Recycling



It makes
TUAMOR sense

www.tuamortheturtle.com

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More than £200 in book sales commission has already helped a number of different charities.

The Marine Conservation Society is the main charity partner of Tuamor the Turtle.

