



Enviro Notes

Environment Periodical for change makers
(An Environment Awareness Initiative by Nirvaan Somany)

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Do something drastic, cut the plastic!

Plastic is cheap and efficient, which is why it has become such an essential part of our daily lives. However, with such widespread use of plastic comes pollution, which is harming our oceans and all the marine animals that live in them.

1. More Than 8 Million Tonnes of Plastic Enter the Ocean Every Year.

We generate more than 380 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, and 8 million tonnes of it end up in the ocean. That's the same amount as the weight of 2 million elephants combined.

2. 3 Billion People in the World Regularly Eat Fish

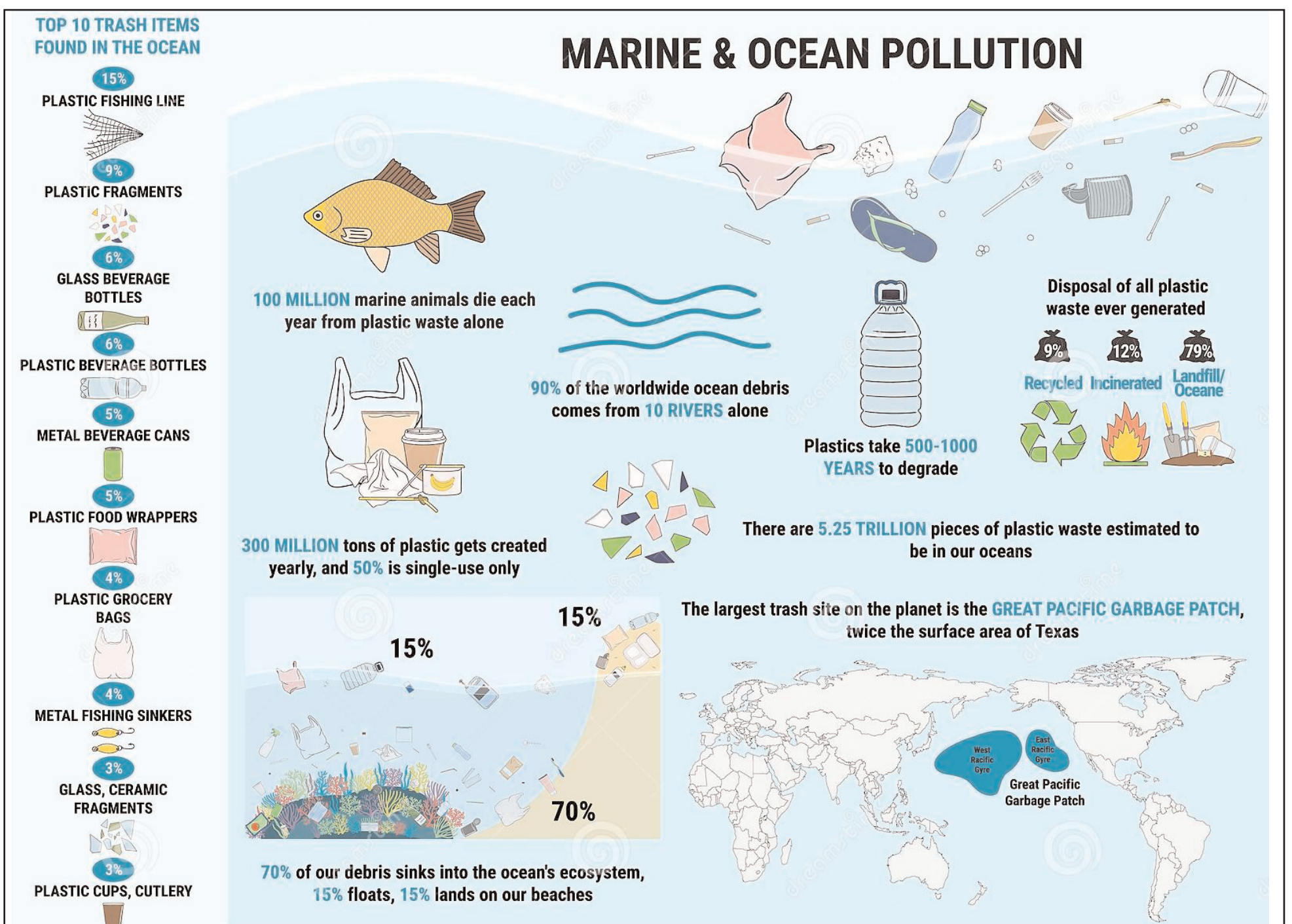
About half of the world's population eats fish regularly. When fish eat plastic waste, we are also eating food that is contaminated. We still don't know the full extent of how consuming plastic could harm human bodies.

3. Marine Animals Will Accidentally Eat Plastic Waste

Plastic waste floating in the water can look a lot like food to marine animals. 33% of fishes were found to have consumed plastic, which is chemical and toxic, and poses threats to their health or even kill them.

4. Plastic Waste Traps Animals

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Cause, an uproar to save tigers - our national animal!

The tiger is India's national animal. The tiger is the largest wild cat in the world. It's tail is three feet long. On average the big cat weighs about 200 kg. It stands three feet tall with teeth four inches long and claws as long as house keys. They are about 5 to 6 feet in length.

A female tiger gives birth to a litter of three or four cubs, who she will care for until they are a year-and-a-half old. These cubs quadruple in size during their first month! Tigers gain independence at around 2 years of age and have been known to live to around 20 years in the wild.

Tigers normally hunt alone. They wait until dark to go look for prey. The tiger sprints to an unsuspecting animal, usually pulling it off its feet with its teeth and claws. If the prey animal is large, the tiger bites its throat to kill it; smaller prey is usually killed when the tiger breaks its neck. Tigers have been known to eat up to 35-40 kg of meat in one night, but more often they consume about 5 kg during a meal. It may take days for a tiger to finish eating its kill. The cat eats until it's full, and then covers the carcass with leaves and dirt. The tiger comes back to feed some more.

Tigers live far apart from each other. A tiger knows if it is in another tiger's territory based on the trees around him.

Each tiger marks the trees in its area with urine and special scratches. Unlike most members of the cat family, tigers seem to enjoy water and swim well. Tiger stripes are special to each individual, and their tails help them to keep their balance.

Tigers have been overhunted for their fur as well as for other body parts that many people use in traditional medicines. Tigers' habitat has also dwindled seriously as humans have developed land for uses such as farming and logging.

The tiger is not just a charismatic species or just another wild animal living in some far away forest. The tiger is a unique animal which plays a pivotal role in the health and diversity of an ecosystem. It is a top predator which is at the apex of the food chain and keeps the population of wild ungulates in check, thereby maintaining the balance between herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed. Therefore, the presence of tigers in the forest is an indicator of the well being of the ecosystem.

The extinction of this top predator is an indication that its ecosystem is not sufficiently protected, and neither would it exist for long thereafter.

Do something drastic cut the plastic!

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Plastic waste in the ocean can trap animals easily. Unlike us, they don't have hands to untangle themselves from fishing nets or plastic packaging rings, which prevents them from eating or swimming, and can even cause them to drown.

5. Plastic Breaks Down into Microplastics

When plastic decomposes, it breaks down into smaller pieces called microplastics. Although we can easily pick up plastic waste littered on coastlines to reduce pollution, it's near impossible to get rid of microplastics as they are so tiny that they cannot be seen by the human eye. And yet, despite their size, they are just as harmful as other plastics.

6. Ocean Plastic Pollution Will Triple by 2040

It is estimated that ocean plastic pollution will triple by 2040 if we keep producing plastic at the current rate. However, if we take action to reduce plastic litter and start investing in new, more sustainable solutions, the amount could be cut by 80%!

7. Plastic Waste Will Never Go Away

Okay, this is not entirely accurate. Plastic will eventually disappear, however, the decomposition process takes nearly 450 years! That is why we have to take action now and stop





TIGER FACTS

Blood loss and strangulation are the tiger's main method of killing.

Habitat loss and hunting caused the shrink of the tiger range.

Tigers have "eyes" on the back of their ears.



Tigers like to swim.



Tigers are the world's largest cats.



Tigers hunt alone.



There were originally 8 tiger subspecies.



Each tiger stripe pattern is unique.



Adult tigers have large appetites.



Female tigers usually give birth to blind cubs.

Among all wild cat species, tigers are the most reserved.



Tigers vocalize to improve their roar.



Crossbreeding between a tiger and other wild cats is possible.



Tigers are night owls.



White tigers have beautiful blue eyes.



Tiger punches could kill.



Taiwan bans tiger cross-breeding.



Cubs follow their tiger mom's scent.



Tiger saliva has antiseptic properties.



Adult male tigers eat blind cubs.

India's National Flower - The Lotus

Did you know...

That a lotus seed is a rare species that can survive droughts for more than two hundred years, after which it can then bloom?

- It's India's national flower and is symbolic in Buddhism and Hinduism for wealth, prosperity, purity and fertility.
- The flower species is native to Asia, and most predominantly in India and China.
- The most common colour variations of the lotus flower is pink and white. Other popular lotus colours include blue and red.
- The lotus has been historically used for medicinal purposes such as a pain reliever and for alleviating muscle spasms.
- It's an aquatic plant species that thrives in ponds and lakes, and most exclusively during warm seasons.
- The flower can reach up to twenty inches above water, which helps distinguish it from other botanical varieties like marigolds or arrowhead
- Flower, young leaves, seeds and root are edible and often used in Asian cuisine. Older and bigger leaves are used for wrapping of food. Lotus is rich in fibers and vitamins of the B group. It is also rich source of iron and other important minerals

