

---

Vocabulary: Environment 词汇: 环境

Here's a **staggering** statistic. Scientists have calculated the total amount of plastic ever made: 8.3 billion tonnes. Looked at another way, that's as heavy as 25,000 Empire State Buildings or one billion elephants. And incredibly, almost all of it has been made in the last 65 years.

So what's the problem? Much plastic is in the form of **packaging** which is used just once and then thrown away. According to a major new study from the University of California, 9% of this is recycled, 12% is **incinerated** and 79% goes to **landfill**. And because most plastic doesn't **biodegrade**, once it's in the ground, it stays there.

It's a situation that has led the paper's lead author, **ecologist** Dr Roland Geyer, to say that we are "rapidly heading towards 'Planet Plastic'". He believes that there's already enough waste out there to cover the whole of Argentina.

The team behind this report also estimate that eight million tonnes of plastic waste are escaping into the sea every year. This has generated concern that plastic is entering the **food chain**, though fish and other sea life which **ingest** the smaller **fragments**.

Of course, the reason why there's so much plastic around is that it's an amazingly useful material. We can't get enough of it. It's **durable** and **adaptable**, and is used for everything from yoghurt pots to spaceships. But it's precisely this quality which makes it a problem. The only way to destroy plastic is to heat or burn it – although this has the side effect of harmful **emissions**.

So what's the alternative, other than using less plastic? **Oceanographer** Dr Erik van Sebille from Utrecht University says we're facing a "**tsunami**" of plastic waste, and that the global waste industry needs to "**get its act together**".

Professor Richard Thompson, a **marine biologist** from Plymouth University, says it's poor design that's **at fault**. He says that if products are currently designed "with **recyclability** in mind", they could be recycled around 20 times over.

Dr Geyer agrees: "The holy grail of recycling is to keep material in use and in the **loop** for ever if you can. But it **turns out** in our study that actually 90% of that material that did get recycled - which I think we calculated was 600 million tonnes - only got recycled once."

## 词汇表

<b>staggering</b>	令人震惊的
<b>packaging</b>	包装材料
<b>incinerate</b>	被焚毁的
<b>landfill</b>	垃圾填埋场
<b>biodegrade</b>	生物降解
<b>ecologist</b>	生态学家
<b>food chain</b>	食物链
<b>ingest</b>	咽下（食物）
<b>fragment</b>	碎片，碎块
<b>durable</b>	耐用的
<b>adaptable</b>	适应性强的
<b>emission</b>	排放物
<b>oceanographer</b>	海洋学家
<b>tsunami</b>	海啸
<b>get your act together</b>	合理安排，有条理地筹划
<b>marine biologist</b>	海洋生物学家
<b>at fault</b>	有责任，有过错
<b>recyclability</b>	可再利用性
<b>loop</b>	循环
<b>turn out</b>	结果是（尤指出乎意料的结果）

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Where does the greatest proportion of plastic waste go?
2. How might plastic enter the food we eat?
3. What do Professor Thompson and Dr Geyer agree about?
4. Which word means 'ability to be recycled'?
5. True or false: *The fact that plastic is durable is good for the environment.*

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Marine biology and \_\_\_\_\_ are related subjects.

ecologist	marines	oceanographer	oceanography
-----------	---------	---------------	--------------

2. As \_\_\_\_\_, I study the relationships between all living things and their environment.

an ecologist	a chemist	an oceanographer	a psychologist
--------------	-----------	------------------	----------------

3. You need to get \_\_\_\_\_ together. You can't keep on handing in your homework late.

the act	my act	this act	your act
---------	--------	----------	----------

4. Because it doesn't \_\_\_\_\_, plastic waste is very harmful to the environment.

emit	ingest	biodegrade	incinerate
------	--------	------------	------------

5. Finding a new form of \_\_\_\_\_ energy is the holy grail for many environmentalists.

clean and renewable	fossil fuel	cheap	modern and impressive
---------------------	-------------	-------	-----------------------

## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Where does the greatest proportion of plastic waste go?  
**An estimated 79% of plastic waste ends up in landfill.**
2. How might plastic enter the food we eat?  
**It's thought that small fragments of plastic are ingested by fish and other sea life, and from there it enters the food chain.**
3. What do Professor Thompson and Dr Geyer agree about?  
**They agree that products need to be recycled many times over, not just once.**
4. Which word means 'ability to be recycled'?  
**Recyclability.**
5. True or false: *The fact that plastic is durable is good for the environment.*  
**False. Plastic being durable is bad for the environment, because it needs to be disposed of in other ways.**

### 2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Marine biology and **oceanography** are related subjects.
2. As **ecologist**, I study the relationships between all living things and their environment.
3. You need to get **your act** together. You can't keep on handing in your homework late.
4. Because it doesn't **biodegrade**, plastic waste is very harmful to the environment.
5. Finding a new form of **clean and renewable** energy is the holy grail for many environmentalists.