

Plastic oceans



Interactive Wonder-Worksheet 17b

According to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), **we produce over 300 million tons of plastic every year.**

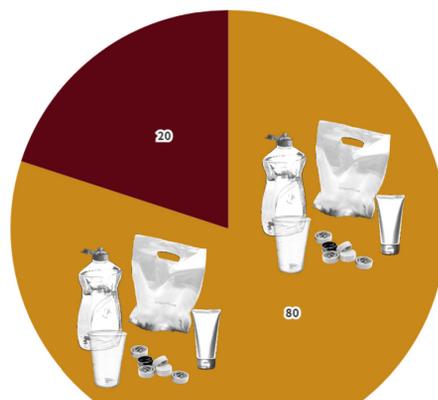
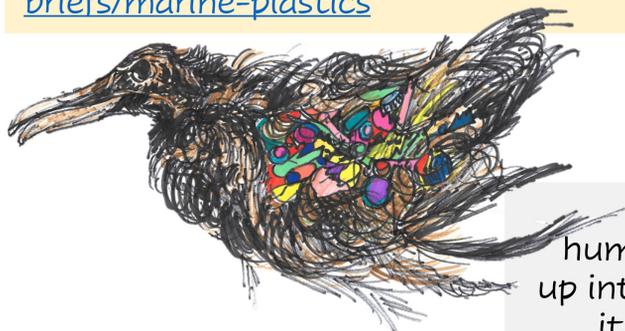


That's the same weight as 3 million blue whales!

From the above info, work out how much a blue whale weighs: _____
(Unfortunately there are nowhere near that many blue whales in Earth's seas – scientists say there are only around 20,000 blue whales left). For more blue whale facts, see <https://www.treehugger.com/facts-about-blue-whales-largest-animals-ever-known-earth-4858813>

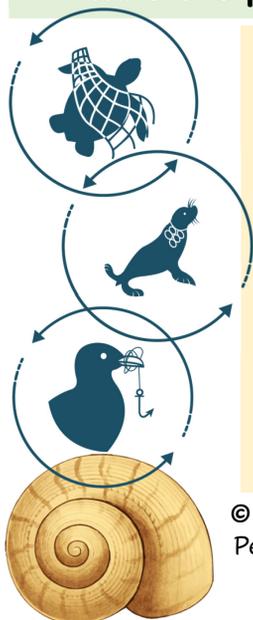
Type of ocean debris ■ Plastic ■ Other debris

The great majority (**80%**) of all ocean debris (human litter and pollution, sewerage, sediments, animal waste, dead fish, old ships, etc) is plastic waste. →
See <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/marine-plastics>



One of the saddest things about the plastic humans throw away, is once the ocean breaks it up into tiny pieces, seabirds and other animals eat it and feed it to their babies, thinking it's food. Their stomachs get full of undigested, hard plastic and they die from pain, disease and starvation.

Read more here: <https://www.kidsagainstplastic.co.uk/>, or if you wish, take the **plastic free pledge** here: <https://www.plasticfreepledge.com/>



Do some research on plastic in the oceans. Find out 1. Where it comes from, 2. Why it's dangerous, and 3. How humans can stop using plastics, or stop their plastics getting into the oceans.

Here are some websites you could use for your research:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/fall-2019/articles/plastic-in-the-ocean> and <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/plastic-in-the-ocean/>

Design a folding leaflet with your facts about Plastic in our Oceans.

Either fold a blank piece of paper, then write and draw on it, or get some tips on designing an A4 size, folding leaflet in Microsoft Word here:

<https://www.instantprint.co.uk/printspiration/print-design-tips/how-to-design-a-folded-leaflet-in-microsoft-word> Once finished, email your leaflets to info@kathrynrosenewey.com and the best ones will be added to my website ☺

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Answer: One blue whale weighs: $300,000,000 \div 3,000,000 = 100$ tons.