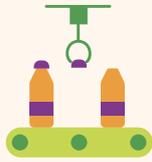


Globalisation



Extraction



Production



Distribution



Consumption



Disposal

The image above shows the lifespan of a product. Have a look at the products below and discuss the following:

What is it made of?

Where would the original materials come from?

How would they have been extracted?

How were the original materials changed to make this product? What are the effects of these production processes?

How would it have been distributed? What packaging would be used for its distribution?

How long would it be used for?

What is done with it when it is no longer needed?

Choose a product you use often and research to find out where each of the stages of its lifespan occurs and what happens at each stage.

Record these in the boxes below.



Toy car



Plastic screw tops



Water bottles



Toasted sandwich maker



Plastic yoyo



Writing book and pen

Extraction

Production

Distribution

Consumption

Disposal

Image source:

[Toy car](#) – Shingo.a, CC-Zero, via Wikimedia Commons

[Screw tops](#) – Lucasbosch, CC-BY-SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

[Water bottles](#) – Unknown author, CC-Zero, via Wikimedia Commons

[Toasted sandwich maker](#) – Unknown author, CC-BY-SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

[Plastic yoyo](#) – Evan-Amos, via Wikimedia Commons

[Book and pen](#) – David Schwarzenberg, CC-Zero, via Wikimedia Commons

Globalisation



The image on the left shows a beach on Henderson Island, an uninhabited island halfway between New Zealand and Chile.

How do you think this waste got on the beach?
What are some impacts of this plastic waste on the environment?



Windblown waste is a big problem in landfills. The image on the right shows how at Kate Valley, dirt is spread over the waste every day to prevent it from blowing away.

Discuss in your groups how else you think we could prevent waste washing up on beaches.



New Zealand's ban on some plastics

The government has announced plans to ban some plastic products by July 2025. The three-stage plan to phase out hard-to-recycle plastic packaging will take place over the next four years. Environment Minister David Parker said from late 2022 PVC meat trays, polystyrene takeaway packaging and degradable plastic products that harm the environment will not be allowed. By mid-2025 all other PVC and polystyrene food and drink packaging will be outlawed.

The ban also includes single-use plastic items such as drink stirrers, cotton buds, single-use produce bags, cutlery, plates and bowls, straws and fruit labels. The government expects more work to be done on how to introduce phase-outs of certain types of expanded polystyrene, single-use cups (including coffee cups) and wet wipes.



Image source:

Henderson Island – www.stuff.co.nz/environment/113052175

Kate Valley – <http://www.learnz.org.nz>

Plastic straws – Adam Jones, CC-BY-SA-2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Environment Minister David Parker said:

“We estimate this new policy will remove more than 2 billion single-use plastic items from our landfills or environment each year. These types of plastics often end up as waste in landfills and cause pollution in our soils, waterways and the ocean. Reducing plastic waste will improve our environment and ensure we live up to our clean, green reputation. Phasing out unnecessary and problematic plastics will help reduce waste to landfill, improve our recycling system and encourage reusable or environmentally responsible alternatives. New Zealand had a poor record when it came to plastic waste, with an estimated 159gm per person being dumped each day. But the government was confident the country could do better.”¹

Discuss who you think are the stakeholders in this situation – a stakeholder is anyone who is affected by something. Include groups who are producers, as well as different consumer groups, policymakers, people from different countries, of different ages and abilities.

Choose one stakeholder group and discuss what they might think are some positive or negative consequences of this law change.

¹ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/445628/government-announces-bans-on-some-plastic-items>