



# Plastics and turtles

Recent research has estimated that more than half of all sea turtles have eaten plastic. Turtles eating just one piece of plastic have a 20% chance of dying, eating 14 pieces raises this to a 50% chance. Young turtles are at a greater risk, confusing plastic for food. Turtles can confuse plastic bags floating in the ocean for jellyfish, which are their natural prey.

## Challenge

Cut out the cards below and make as many complete sentences as you can by choosing...

one problem card &

one effect card &

one harm card

**Problem card...**

**...effect card...**

**...harm card.**

You have 4 minutes to investigate the different ways that plastic can harm turtles.

Wilcox et al. A quantitative analysis linking sea turtle mortality and plastic debris ingestion. Scientific Reports volume 8, Article number: 12536 (2018)

## STUDENT SHEET 2c

Turtles eating plastic can cause...	Turtles getting entangled in plastic can cause...	Plastic on the beach can cause...
...cuts and other injuries, which can lead to...	...problems swimming, which can lead to...	...blockage of the intestines which can lead to...
...internal injury, which can lead to...	...malnutrition, which can lead to...	...increased buoyancy, which can lead to...
...turtle nests to become warmer, which can lead to...	...reduced growth.	...more turtle hatchlings being female.
...poor health.	...death.	...difficulty in escaping predators.
...drowning.	...starvation.	...difficulty in finding food.

