

PLASTIC:

Some Clear, Hard Facts

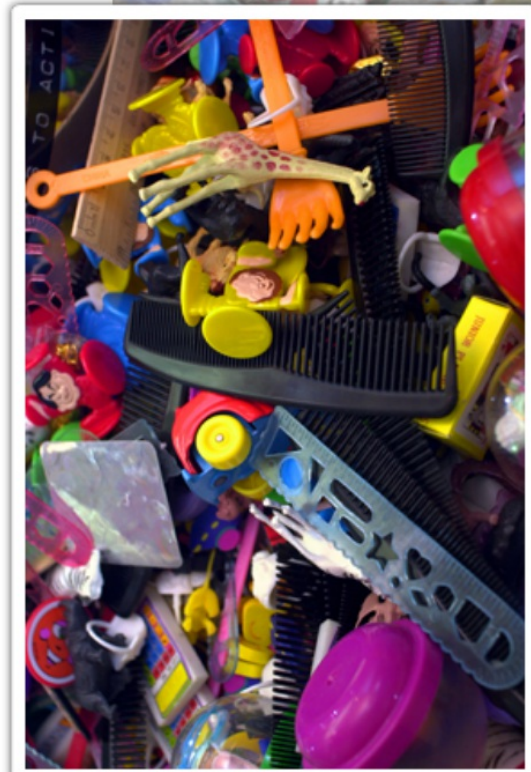
by Boris Maletski

Scanning is quickly reading text to find specific information.

Plastic is everywhere in our “throwaway” world—from soda bottles to sandwich bags and from razors to diapers. Plastics make life easier, but many pose a huge threat to the environment because they don’t decay like natural materials. Luckily, there are solutions to this problem. People can reduce plastic use. Manufacturers can also change the way plastics are made.

Highlight words related to finding solutions.

Scan for two possible solutions and underline them.



▲ Plastics are convenient but can pose a threat to the environment.



Solutions

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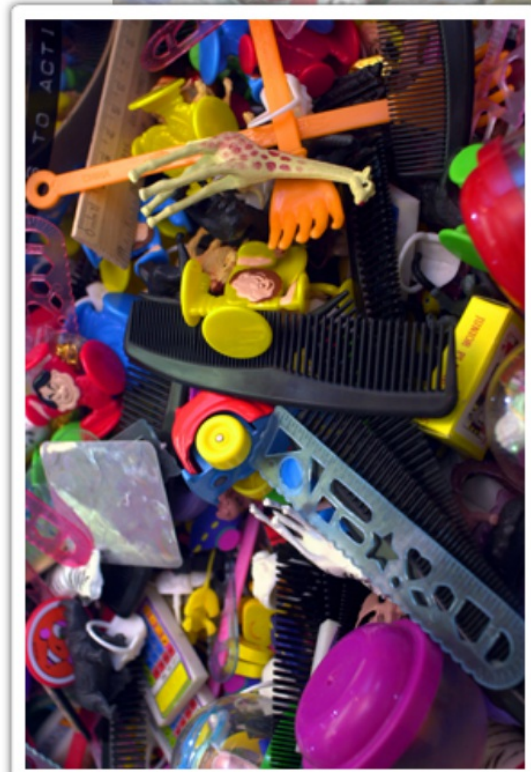
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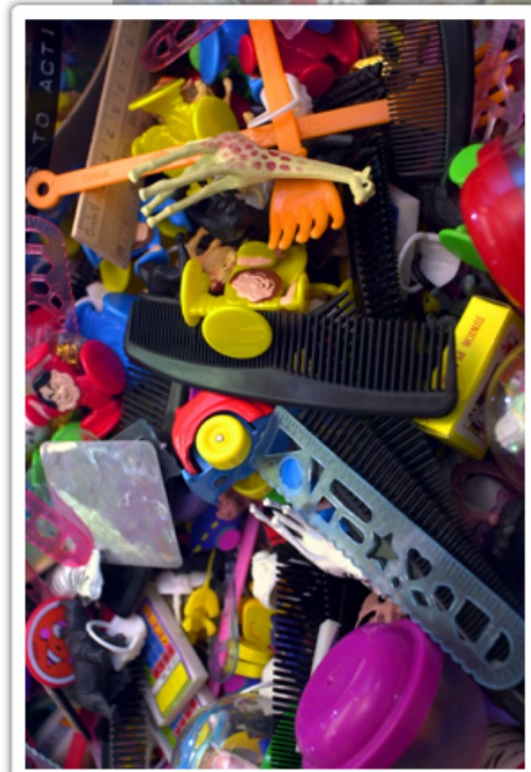
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(continued)

A common type of plastic waste is water bottles. Thirty billion plastic water bottles were sold in the U.S. in 2005. The problem is that about 80% of them were thrown out after one use. Some made their way to the ocean, harming or even killing sea birds and mammals. One way to help solve this problem is to buy reusable water bottles and repeatedly refill them. States can also change the law. What if all stores charged a ten-cent deposit fee for each plastic bottle sold? Then people would have a strong incentive to return their empty bottles for recycling—getting their deposit money back!

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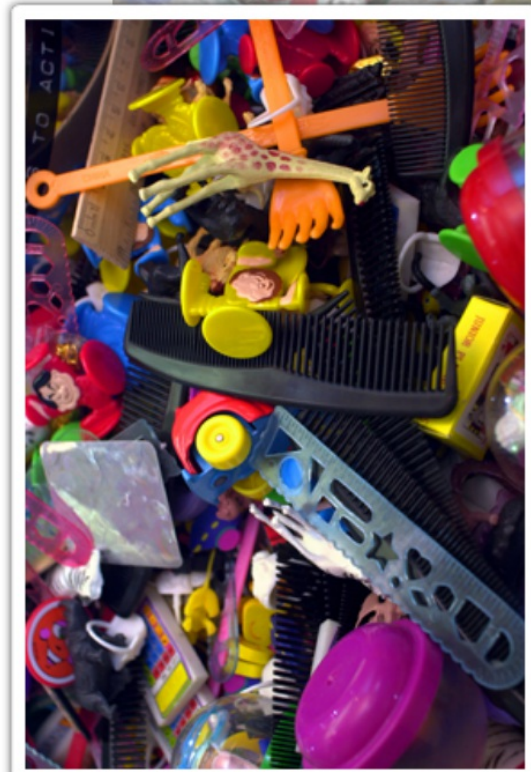
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**Solutions**

EARTH DAY Every Day

Home

Garbage and Pollution

Fact Sheets

How You Can Help

▼ How You Can Help

- **Reduce**
- Reuse
- Recycle

► Saving Water

► Green Schools

Reduce

Reduce means to use less. Using less creates less waste.

Every year, Americans use billions of plastic shopping bags. This creates hundreds of thousands of tons of waste. What if people stop using plastic bags and instead bring their own reusable bags when they shop? This would reduce the amount of plastic waste considerably!



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