

WHY PLASTIC RECYCLING IS BROKEN

You might reasonably think that recycling more will help to solve all the problems with plastic. Unfortunately, that's not true.

There are a bunch of issues with plastic recycling:

1. Most plastic can't be recycled at all (the arrow symbols are meaningless)
2. Recycling plastic is difficult and expensive
3. Plastic can't be recycled infinitely
4. Plastic recycling isn't safe
5. There is too much plastic for recycling facilities to handle

Each issue on its own is quite serious; together they are catastrophic! The last issue especially means that a lot of plastic waste from wealthy countries is shipped to poor countries to deal with, which is hugely unfair.

Find out more about how plastic recycling works (or doesn't!) with the links and activities below.



Read

[PART FIVE BLOG](#)



Watch

[PART FIVE PLAYLIST](#)



Do

Do some research online or offline: what types of plastic (and other materials) can be recycled in your area?

Do you know for certain what happens to the recycling after it reaches the facility?



Reflect

Recycling plastic is not the same as recycling other materials like metal or glass. Can you explain why?

💡 Consider the economic, health and social reasons.

>> Comment here.



[TAKE THE QUIZ!](#)