

Environmentalists call for worldwide ban on glitter

4th December, 2017



Scientists are highlighting the damage that glitter does to our seas, oceans and environment. The scientists are calling for a worldwide ban on the sparkly, shiny pieces of

plastic that decorate everything from eyelids to greetings cards to furniture. Scientists from New Zealand's Massey University say glitter is a micro-plastic and should therefore be banned. They say a considerable amount of glitter ends up in the world's oceans. Fish cannot digest it and it does not break down, so it stays in the food chain. Professor Richard Thompson conducted research in the seas around the United Kingdom. He found that plastic particles were discovered in about one-third of the fish caught.

Micro-plastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are less than five millimeters long. Most glitter produced around the world falls into the category of micro-plastics. Dr Trisia Farrelly told Britain's "Independent" newspaper: "I think all glitter should be banned because it's a micro-plastic." Professor Thompson said: "I was quite concerned when somebody bought my daughters some shower gel that had glitter particles in it. That stuff is going to escape down the plughole and potentially enter the environment." Some cosmetics companies are now discontinuing their use of plastic glitter. The company Lush stated: "We've avoided micro-plastics by switching to synthetic and mineral glitter."

Sources:
smh.com.au / globalcosmeticsnews.com / livescience.com

Writing

Can we live without plastic? What three things can we use instead of plastic?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

highlighting / oceans / environment / worldwide / sparkly / banned / digest / fish / pieces / category / newspaper / concerned / daughters / shower gel / cosmetics

True / False

- Scientists want to ban people from decorating their eyelids with glitter. T / F
- The scientists said it is OK to use glitter for greetings cards. T / F
- The scientists said all glitter ends up in the ocean. T / F
- Research found that a third of fish in seas around the UK contained plastic. T / F
- Micro-plastic is less than five millimeters long. T / F
- Glitter does not fall into the micro-plastics category. T / F
- A professor worried about glitter in his daughter's shower gel. T / F
- A cosmetics company uses mineral glitter instead of plastic glitter. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. highlighting | a. stopping |
| 2. ban | b. adorn |
| 3. decorate | c. minute |
| 4. considerable | d. bits |
| 5. particles | e. manufactured |
| 6. tiny | f. focusing on |
| 7. produced | g. artificial |
| 8. discontinuing | h. changing |
| 9. switching | i. prohibition |
| 10. synthetic | j. sizable |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of glitter?
- Should we completely stop using glitter?
- How can we better protect our seas and oceans?
- How can we tell more people about the damage glitter does?
- Why do we care more about decoration than the environment?
- How polluted do you think our oceans are?
- What do you know about the food chain?
- What happens to us if we eat fish that have eaten micro-plastics?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. highlighting the damage that glitter | a. synthetic and mineral glitter |
| 2. shiny pieces of plastic that | b. third of the fish |
| 3. Fish cannot | c. pieces of plastic |
| 4. it stays in the food | d. decorate everything |
| 5. particles were discovered in about one- | e. down the plughole |
| 6. tiny | f. digest it |
| 7. falls into the | g. particles in it |
| 8. shower gel that had glitter | h. chain |
| 9. That stuff is going to escape | i. does to our seas |
| 10. switching to | j. category of micro-plastics |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do people use glitter for?
- How much do we need glitter?
- Why do we need glitter in shower gel?
- What do you cosmetics that have glitter in them?
- What are the good and bad things about glitter?
- How possible is it to stop using all plastics?
- What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Spelling

- shiny pieces of plastic that toerecda everything
- greetings cards to turrenifu
- a rilnecdoaseb amount of glitter
- Fish cannot egisd it
- Thompson dtonccude research
- plastic esptilacr were discovered
- the eygoarct of micro-plastics
- I was quite eecodncrn
- escape down the hlleopgu
- oplaenyitlt enter the environment
- sescitcmo companies
- hsetnytic and mineral glitter

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. c	7. e	8. a	9. h	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Glitter

You think glitter is the plastic goods we need least. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which of their things aren't as bad to make with plastic. Also, tell the others which of these is the most OK to use plastic for (and why): shopping bags, cups or toothbrushes.

Role B – Shopping Bags

You think shopping bags are the plastic goods we need least. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which of their things aren't as bad to make with plastic. Also, tell the others which of these is the most OK to use plastic for (and why): glitter, cups or toothbrushes.

Role C – Cups

You think cups are the plastic goods we need least. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which of their things aren't as bad to make with plastic. Also, tell the others which of these is the most OK to use plastic for (and why): shopping bags, glitter or toothbrushes.

Role D – Toothbrushes

You think toothbrushes are the plastic goods we need least. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which of their things aren't as bad to make with plastic. Also, tell the others which of these is the most OK to use plastic for (and why): shopping bags, cups or glitter.

Speaking – Plastics

Rank these with your partner. Put the plastics we need least at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| • glitter | • coat hangers |
| • cups | • toothbrushes |
| • toys | • drinks bottles |
| • food trays | • shopping bags |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.