

## PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic pollution has become one of the most **pressing environmental issues**, as rapidly increasing production of **disposable** plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

Plastics **revolutionized** medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets - saving fuel and pollution - and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to **a throw-away culture** that reveals the material's dark side: today, **single-use** plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year.

Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other **marine organisms**.

Most of the deaths to animals are caused by entanglement or **starvation**. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

Plastics have also been found to have blocked digestive tracts or pierced organs, causing death. Stomachs so **packed with** plastics reduce the **urge** to eat, causing starvation.

- **pressing environmental issues:** những vấn đề môi trường cấp bách
- **disposable** /dɪˈspəʊzəbl/ (adj) = *made to be thrown away after use*: dùng 1 lần, được sản xuất ra để bỏ đi sau khi dùng
- **revolutionize** /ˌrevəˈluːʃənəɪz/ (v) = *to completely change the way that something is done*: cách mạng hóa, làm thay đổi hoàn toàn
- **a throw-away culture** = *a society full of excessive consumption and waste of food, products, etc*: xã hội mà trong đó người ta sử dụng đồ đạc trong một thời gian ngắn sau đó vứt chúng đi, mua đồ mới
- **single-use** /ˌsɪŋɡl̩ˈjuːs/ (adj) = *made to be used once only and then thrown away*: dùng 1 lần
- **marine** /məˈriːn/ (adj): *connected with the sea and the creatures and plants that live there*: thuộc về biển
- **organism** /ˈɔːrgənɪzəm/ (n): *a living thing, especially one that is extremely small*: sinh vật
- **starvation** /stɑːrˈveɪʃn/ (n)
- = *the state in which somebody suffers or dies because they have no food*: sự chết đói
- **to be packed with ...** = *to be full of .../ to be filled with ...*: chứa đầy ...
- **urge** /ɜːrdʒ/ (n) = *a strong desire to do something*: sự thèm/muốn ...

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-pollution>

### SYNONYMS

- pressing environmental issues ≈ urgent/serious environmental problems (Từ Huyền cho thêm, không có trong bài)
- disposable ≈ single-use