1) The purpose of generics is so that we do not have to write a separate class for data structures of each type. Instead of needing a class for a queue of integers and a separate class for a queue of strings, with generics we can make one class that works for all data types.
2) Because declaring the list as an object means you only have access to the object methods, and not specific methods of that type (ex: if you declared it as a string you wouldn't be able to use string methods because java views it as just an object)
3) Because when you declare an array you need to declare its type, so it is more complicated to implement generics because there are more places the generic type needs to be implemented. And also, due to type erasure, the byte code when calling an array does not contain any generics equations.
4) As many as you want
5) The process of enforcing type constraints only at compile time and discarding the element type information at runtime.