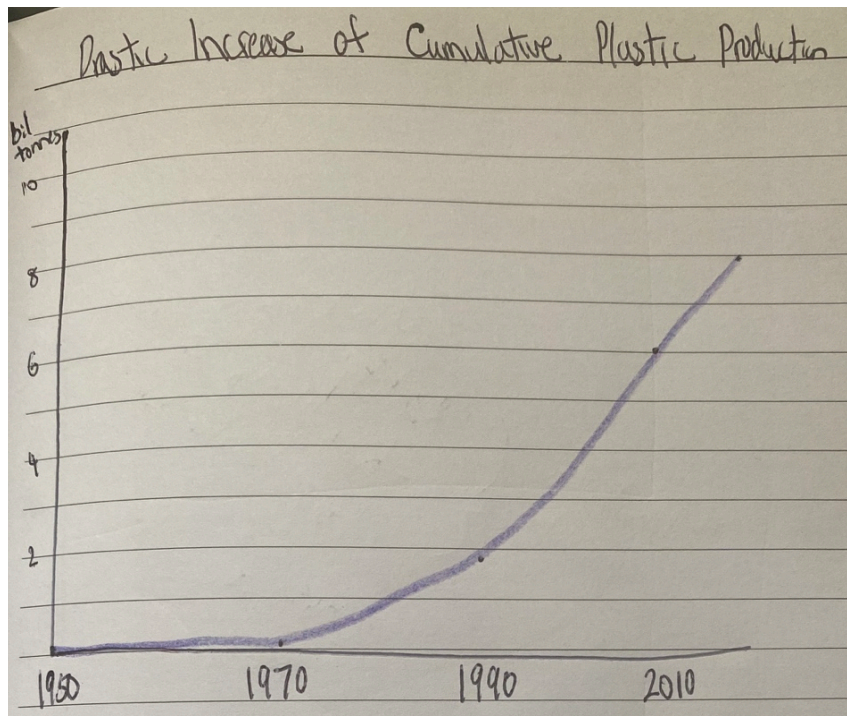


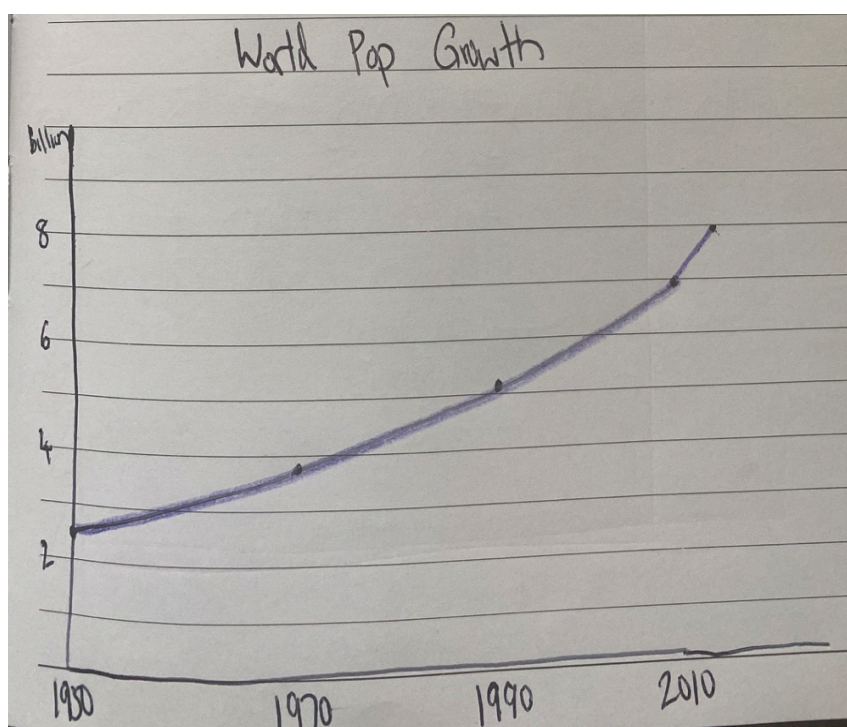
Hidden Cost of Convenience

It is hard to go by a day without coming into contact or using some type of plastic, whether it be the cloths you put on, the phone you slip in your pocket, or that morning cup of starbucks.

For the past 70 years, the annual production of **plastic** has **increased** almost **20,000%**!

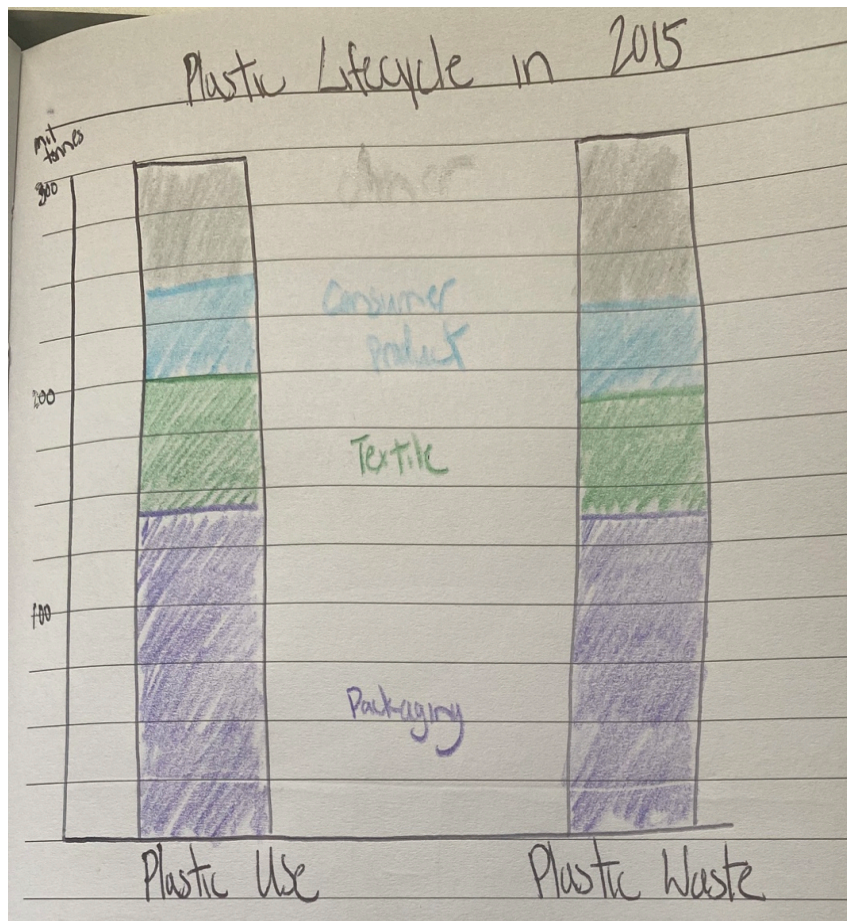


For perspective, when looking at the **population growth** during the same period, it is roughly **50%**.



So where does all that plastic go?

In 2015, roughly 60% went into packaging, textile, or consumer product. Of those products, most are short life, single use plastic that become quickly become plastic waste.



Most of the plastic waste isn't recycled, which has created a significant waste problem.

The majority of plastic is being discarded, which means they are filling up land fills, being littered, or lost to the natural environment.

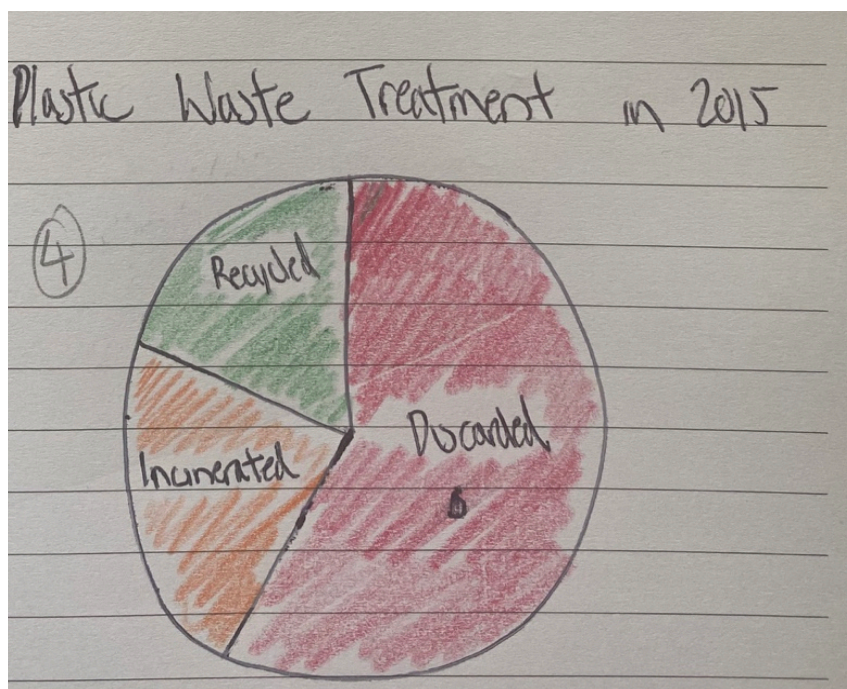
Consequences of Plastic Waste Methods

All three of the plastic waste treatment methods have a heavy cost.

Incinerations is burning the plastic at high temperature which releases toxin into the air if not properly contained.

Recycling with can be difficult and not always cost or energy efficient.

Discarded plastic can get lost in in nature. Those plastics harms the wild life as they can be entangled in them or mistaken them for food, especially as those plastic breaks down into macroplastic and microplastic.



It is difficult to calculate the exact amount of plastic in nature, but estimation is 3% of annual plastic waste.

Using 2015 cumulative plastic waste amount of 7.82 billion tons, that means roughly 235 million tonnes of plastic is lost in nature.

An average cruise ship weights about 200,000GT.

Therefore, there's roughly 1175 cruise ship in weight of plastic lost in nature.

(will add graphic to show the weight of trash and number of ships as a way to show perspective)

Plastic can take up to 450 years to decompose[1], yet we produce over 381 million tons yearly (that's almost 2000 cruise ships!).

What can we do?

We can't undo much of the damage given the long life of plastic in nature or in landfill. But we can slow down future pollution by reducing current plastic consumption. Especially given the majority of plastic is single use plastic.

Fortunately, we can slow down nature pollution by having better waste management. But we as everyday citizens can help by

- reducing our daily plastic consumption, especially of single use plastic
- such as minimize use of bottled water to switching to reusable water bottle
- bring reusable shopping bag instead of using plastic bag
- recycle plastic and single use bags
- advocate for less unnecessary plastic packaging
- by shopping with retailers who are sustainable
- promote awareness of the problem and policy to improve waste management