



# Plastics and turtles

Recent research has estimated that more than half of all sea turtles have eaten plastic. Turtles eating just one piece of plastic have a 20% chance of dying, eating 14 pieces raises this to a 50% chance. Young turtles are at a greater risk, confusing plastic for food. Turtles can confuse plastic bags floating in the ocean for jellyfish, which are their natural prey.

## Challenge

Cut out the cards below and make as many complete sentences as you can by choosing...

one problem card & one effect card & one harm card

**Problem card...**

**...effect card...**

**...harm card.**

You have 4 minutes to investigate the different ways that plastic can harm turtles.

Wilcox et al. A quantitative analysis linking sea turtle mortality and plastic debris ingestion. Scientific Reports volume 8, Article number: 12536 (2018)

## STUDENT SHEET 2c

**Turtles eating plastic can cause...**

**...cuts and other injuries, which can lead to...**

**...internal injury, which can lead to...**

**...turtle nests to become warmer, which can lead to...**

**...poor health.**

**...drowning.**

**Turtles getting entangled in plastic can cause...**

**...problems swimming, which can lead to...**

**...malnutrition, which can lead to...**

**...reduced growth.**

**...death.**

**...starvation.**

**Plastic on the beach can cause...**

**...blockage of the intestines which can lead to...**

**...increased buoyancy, which can lead to...**

**...more turtle hatchlings being female.**

**...difficulty in escaping predators.**

**...difficulty in finding food.**

