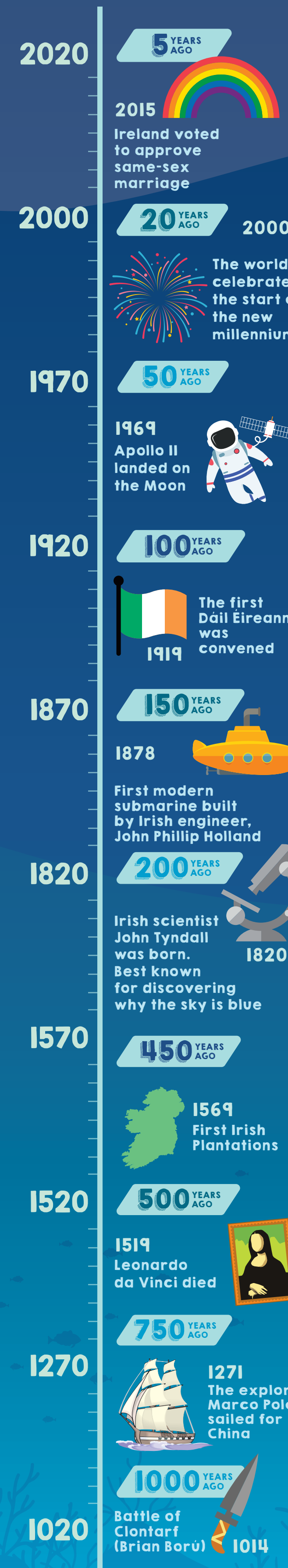


HOW FAR BACK IN TIME COULD SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TRAVEL BEFORE THEY DEGRADE?



HELP PROTECT THESE ANIMALS FOUND IN IRISH WATERS BY USING LESS PLASTICS



SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

HOW LONG UNTIL THEY ARE GONE?

DID YOU KNOW?

Single-use plastics are made to be used once, often for only a few minutes. They do not completely decompose but breakdown into smaller pieces called microplastics.

Plastics make up 80% of all marine litter from surface waters to deep-sea sediments¹

Land based activities account for 80% of marine litter found in our oceans²

Main sources of marine litter:

- Litter washed into drains, rivers and lakes
- Wind blown landfill waste
- Accidental input e.g. shipping containers washed over board
- Illegal dumping

THIS IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

The oceans contain over 150 million tons of plastic waste

Every year up to 8 million tons are added.² This is equivalent to dumping the contents of one rubbish truck into the ocean every minute.

Ocean currents carry marine litter to different areas, resulting in large concentrations coming together in five main regions known as gyres.

Ocean currents can also carry marine litter into coastal areas and onto beaches, polluting coastlines and ports.

WITH RISKS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Entanglement & ingestion by marine animals
- Damages picturesque coastlines & beaches
- Destroys habitats & helps spread invasive species
- Impacts local economies, human health & safety
- Discarded fishing nets can continue to catch fish (ghost fishing) & can also cause vessel damage

SO ITS TIME TO RETHINK PLASTICS

- Avoid single-use plastics like cutlery & cups
- Reduce waste from shopping by buying items with the least amount of plastic packaging
- Reuse plastic bags or drinks bottles
- Separate your rubbish for recycling
- Think global, act local, get involved in beach clean-ups

GUESS HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR THE PLASTIC TO DEGRADE BY PLACING THE YEAR ON THE LITTER ITEM...

CIGARETTE BUTTS
 PLASTIC BAGS
 FOOD CONTAINERS
 WET WIPES
 COTTON BUD STICKS
 STRAWS & STIRRERS
 CUPS & CUP LIDS
 PLASTIC BOTTLES
 PLASTIC CUTLERY
 CAPS & LIDS

Sources:
 1 How long? This is for illustrative purposes only. Real degradation times depend on the type of plastic & the environmental conditions of exposure. Estimations gathered from various sources.
 Note: Litter items selected from: Anna Maria Addamo, Perrine Larache, Georg Hantke, Top Marine Beach Litter Items in Europe, EUR 29245 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017
 2 Thevenon, F., Carroll C., Sousa J. (editors), 2014, Plastic Debris in the Ocean: The Characterization of Marine Plastics & their Environmental Impacts, Situation Analysis Report, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.
 3 Jambeck et al., Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, Science, February 2015.

2 Sets of Magnets:

