POLLUTION LASTS HOW LONG?

HOW LONG DOES LITTER LAST IN THE ENVIRONMENT?

The items of litter and their estimated breakdown time have been jumbled up below. Draw a line between the item of litter and how long you think it will take to break down.

WOOL SOCKS	up to 2 years
CIGARETTE ENDS	1 – 5 years
PLASTIC COATED PAPER	up to 50 years
PLASTIC FILM CONTAINER	5 years
GLASS BOTTLES	1 – 5 years
TIN CANS	10 – 20 years
PLASTIC BAGS	1 million years
ORANGE PEEL	20 – 30 years
NYLON FABRIC	30 – 40 years
LEATHER	80 – 100 years
ALUMINIUM CANS	50 years
PLASTIC BOTTLES	Lasts forever

Try to find out:

Which item takes the longest to break down?
Which item do you think will be most damaging to the environment?
Which items are likely to be most harmful to the marine environment?
What should be done to reduce the amount of rubbish thrown away?
What would you do to try and prevent people from dropping litter?

Teachers Answers
How long does litter last in the environment?

Orange peel and banana peels →	up to 2 years
Cigarette butts →	1 – 5 years
Wool socks →	1 – 5 years
Plastic coated paper →	5 years
Plastic bags →	10 – 20 years
Plastic film container →	20 – 30 years
Nylon fabric →	30 – 40 years
Leather →	up to 50 years
Tin cans →	50 years
Aluminium cans and tabs →	80 – 100 years
Glass bottles →	1 million years
Plastic bottles →	Indefinitely

How Litter Harms Wildlife

Type of Litter. In this column draw a different type of beach litter in each box	**Dangerous to….** Draw the animal(s) it can harm	**Why?** Write down the reason(s) why the litter is dangerous
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		