

# How long 'til it's gone?

How long do you think it will take for each of these items to break down?

Tin can



50-100 years

If not recycled

Aluminum can



80-200 years

If not recycled

Glass bottle



Never?

If not recycled

Milk carton



3 mos. to 5 year

If not recycled

Orange peels



6 months

Composted

Apple core



2 months

Composted

Paper bag



1 month

Composted

Banana peel



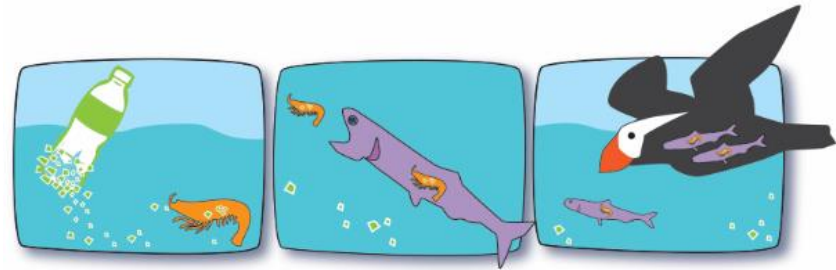
3-4 weeks

Composted

# The Problem with plastic

Plastic really never goes away. Even when we throw plastic away some of it escapes when it is blown away by wind or washed into storm drains when it rains. Some of this plastic trash ends up in streams, rivers and the ocean.

In the ocean, currents, salt water and sun make plastic brittle. Brittle plastic breaks into smaller and smaller pieces that float in the water. Some animals eat pieces of plastic thinking they are food. Larger animals may accidentally eat a straw or bottle cap whole.



Most of these items below can't be recycled. Plastic drink bottles can only be recycled once.



## Did you know?

- As many as **1.4 billion juice pouches** may be thrown away each year. They would wrap around the Earth FIVE times.
- Americans use about **500 million straws** each day.
- Americans throw away **35 billion plastic bottles** every year.

# WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP?