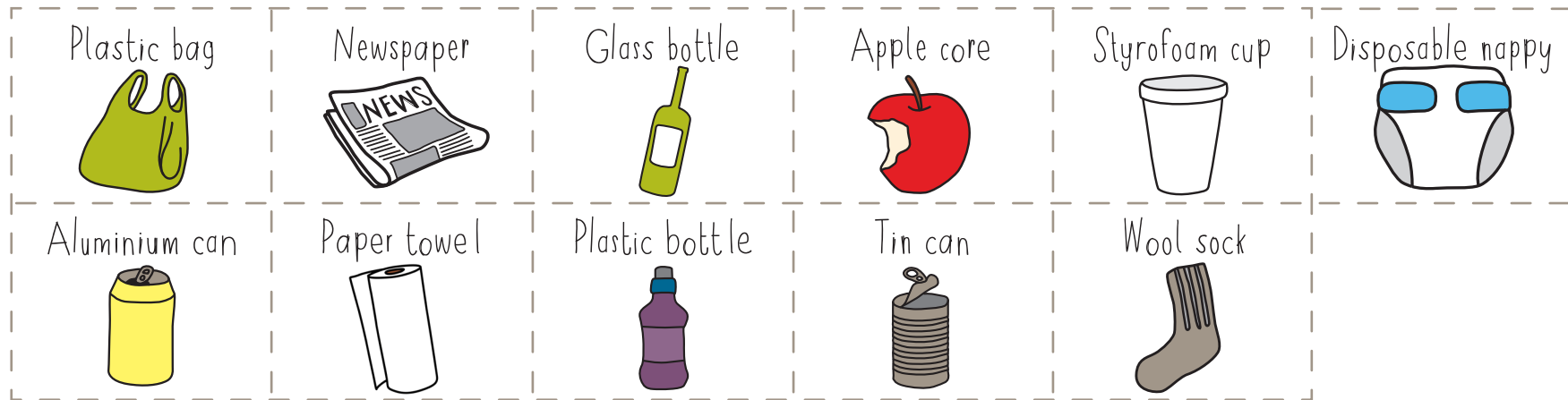


## BIODEGRADABILITY ACTIVITY

Approximately two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day. This has financial and environmental consequences. It is thought that most of the plastics found littering the ocean actually come from on land. As the furthest we can be from the sea in the UK is 70 miles, could our rubbish be contributing to that found in the oceans of the world? And what could the consequences be? This timeline shows just how long it can take for an item of rubbish to decompose in the sea.

Can you place the item of rubbish that has ended up in the sea along the timeline?



LEARN AT

# CHESTER ZOO

2-4 weeks

6 weeks

2 months

1-5 years

200 years

50 years

50 years

10-20 years

450 years

450 years

Undetermined

Now check your answers using the Ocean infographic on the next page

# LEARN AT CHESTERZOO

## OCEAN POLLUTION

Estimated decomposition rates of marine litter



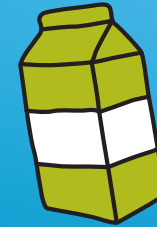
Apple core  
2 months



Newspaper  
6 weeks



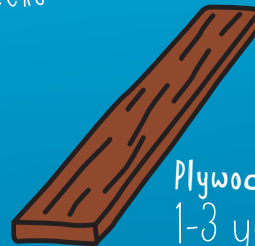
Cotton shirt  
2-5 months



Waxed carton  
3 months



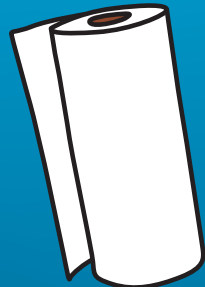
Tin can  
50 years



Plywood  
1-3 years



Cigarette butt  
1-5 years



Paper towel  
2-4 weeks



Wool socks  
1-5 years



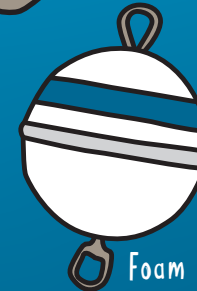
Plastic bottle  
450 years



Glass bottle  
Undetermined



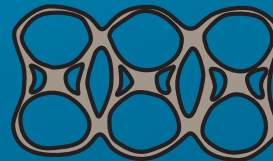
Plastic bag  
10-20 years



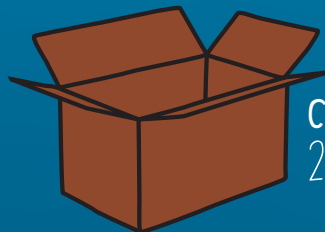
Foam buoy  
50 years



Styrofoam cup  
50 years



Plastic can holder  
400 years



Cardboard box  
2 months



Disposable nappy  
450 years



Aluminium can  
200 years



Fishing line  
600 years