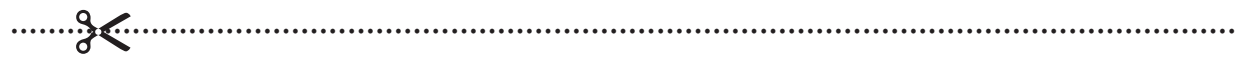




THE LAST STRAW? SCENARIO AND SET OF STATEMENTS

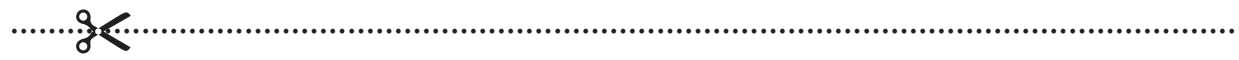
Dan uses a plastic straw to drink his juice when he goes for a picnic in the local park. How might this end up on his dinner plate?



1 Zooplankton, are eaten by a huge variety of animals including small fish, penguins, and the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale.



2 Dan is having a picnic. He sips his juice through a bright orange plastic straw.



3 According to the BBC, it is estimated that in the UK we throw away 42 billion plastic straws a year. That's around 640 per person.



4 After being eaten by minute organisms such as zooplankton, microplastics can pass up the food chain, from smaller fish to bigger fish, and eventually to us.



5 Some human-made materials, like plastic, that end up in the ocean could take hundreds of years to degrade.



6 Unfortunately, Dan does not pick up all the litter from his picnic. The straw blows into the gutter by the road.





7 Plastics look like food to many animal species. Marine turtles can mistake plastic bags for jelly fish, their favourite food.



8 Zooplankton, tiny animals that live in the sea, can eat microplastics.



9 Dan's favourite food is fish and chips.



10 In the sea, plastics break up into tiny pieces called microplastics. These are less than 5mm in size.



11 When it rains, litter is carried away down the drain. It ends up in the river which flows into the sea.



12 Fish are caught and sold to people who eat them for dinner.

