

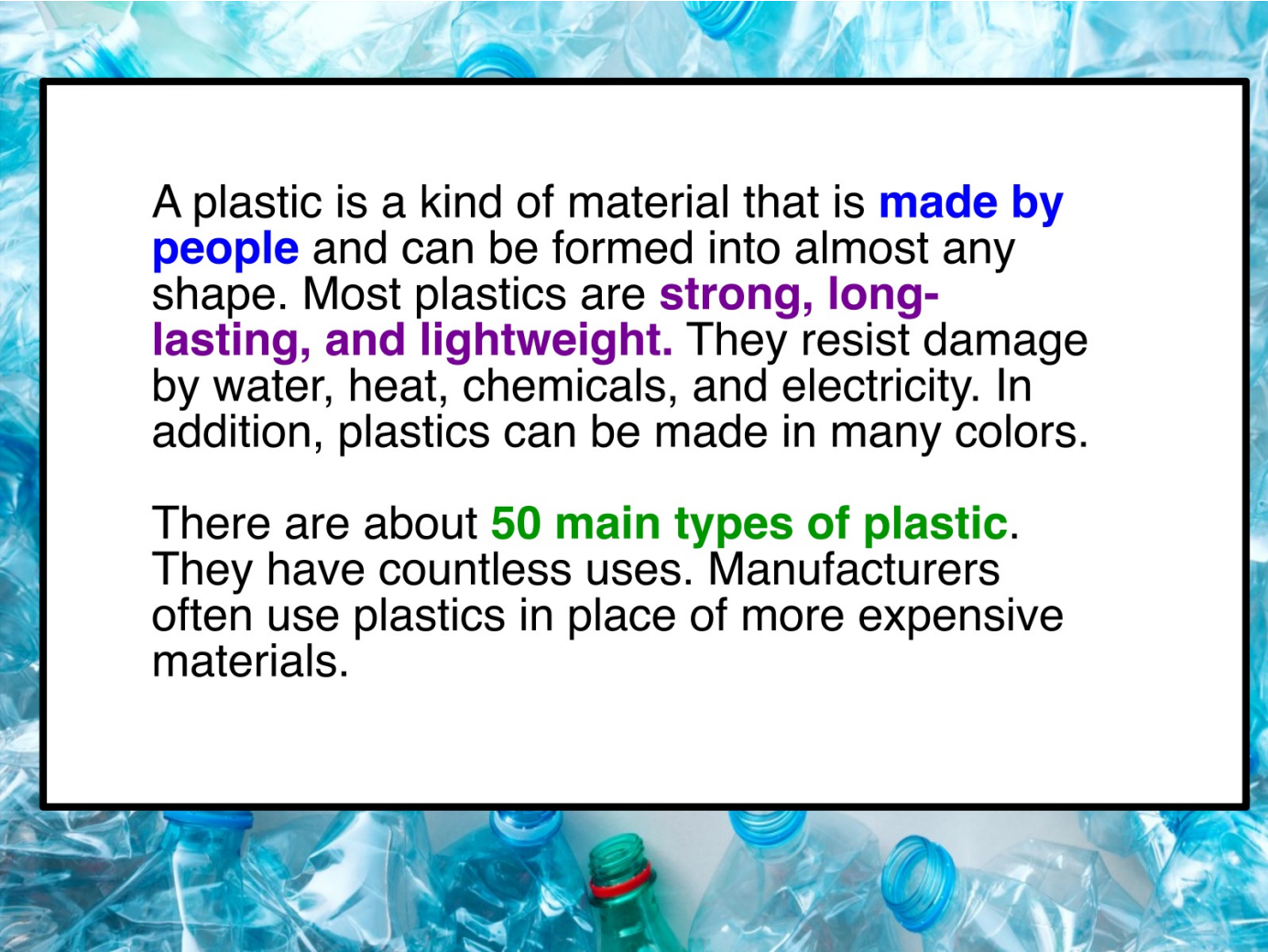
## What do you know?



What is plastic?

How would you describe to someone what plastic was?

Think about what it looks like, how its used and even how it feels.

The background of the slide is a collage of various plastic waste, including clear and blue plastic bottles, some crushed, and other plastic debris, creating a textured, light blue background.

A plastic is a kind of material that is **made by people** and can be formed into almost any shape. Most plastics are **strong, long-lasting, and lightweight**. They resist damage by water, heat, chemicals, and electricity. In addition, plastics can be made in many colors.

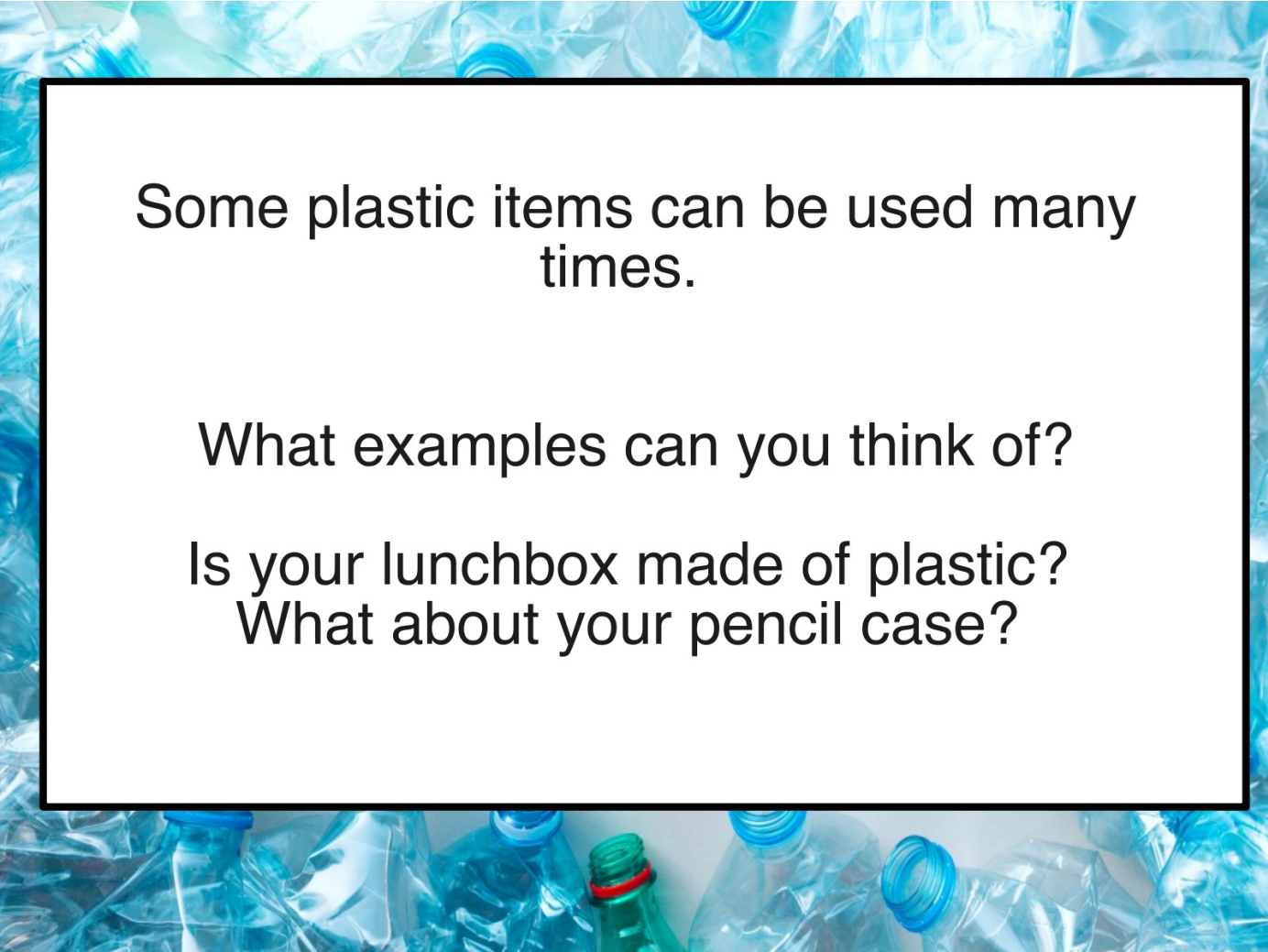
There are about **50 main types of plastic**. They have countless uses. Manufacturers often use plastics in place of more expensive materials.





The background of the slide is a collage of various plastic waste items, including clear and blue plastic bottles, some crushed, and other plastic debris, creating a textured, light blue background.

**Can you see any objects in  
your home that are made  
from plastic?**

The background of the slide is a photograph of various pieces of discarded plastic, including clear and blue plastic bottles and crumpled plastic bags, scattered across the surface.

Some plastic items can be used many times.

What examples can you think of?

Is your lunchbox made of plastic?  
What about your pencil case?



The background of the slide is a photograph of various pieces of discarded plastic waste, including clear plastic bottles, caps, and crumpled plastic bags, scattered across the surface. The image is slightly blurred and has a cool, blue-toned color palette.

However, other plastic items are only used once before we throw them away.

What examples can you think of?





Objects like these are called  
**single-use plastics.**





# Plastic Pollution



Sometimes, plastics like these can end up in the ocean or in rivers and streams. But how?

Plastic that you put in the bin usually ends up in a landfill. While it is being transported, it is often blown away because it is so light. It can be blown into streets, rivers, lakes and even the sea.

Sometimes, plastic litter is dropped on the street and swept away by the rain and wind into rivers, streams and drains. Drains lead all the way to the ocean!

Putting anything down toilets and sinks that shouldn't be is another way in which plastics end up in rivers and oceans.

# Plastic Pollution



The effects of plastic pollution can be very severe. Thousands of seabirds and turtles, seals and fish are killed every year from eating or being caught in plastic. One third of all marine mammal species have been found entangled in plastic litter. Jellyfish have even been known to mistake a plastic bag for another jellyfish!



Scientists believe that there are now up to 50 trillion pieces of plastic in the oceans. More than eight billion tonnes of plastic ends up in the ocean every year. It is estimated that, by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans.

Plastic is so strong and long-lasting that every piece of plastic that has ever been made still exists today.

# Stopping Plastic Pollution

There are things that we can all do to help stop plastic pollution from getting worse.

1. Stop buying single-use plastics, such as drinks bottles, food containers and shampoo. Long-lasting carrier bags, drinks flasks and bars of soap and shampoo are available.
2. Recycle as much plastic as possible.
3. Avoid littering and use bins, especially recycling bins.
4. Only flush toilet paper down the toilet and use a bin for wipes and anything else which does not degrade.

There are some people who believe that businesses and governments should be doing more.



**When you are next able to go on your daily walk, try going on a 'waste walk'**

**You could walk around Shard End Lake and see how much plastic waste you can find.**

**I bet you will have never really noticed it before.**

If it is safe to do so, an adult will collect the waste up, so that it can be disposed of properly.



Think about what you think should be done to help prevent plastic pollution.

Thinking about single use plastics, what could we do as a school?

Do you agree- "All single use plastics should be banned"?

