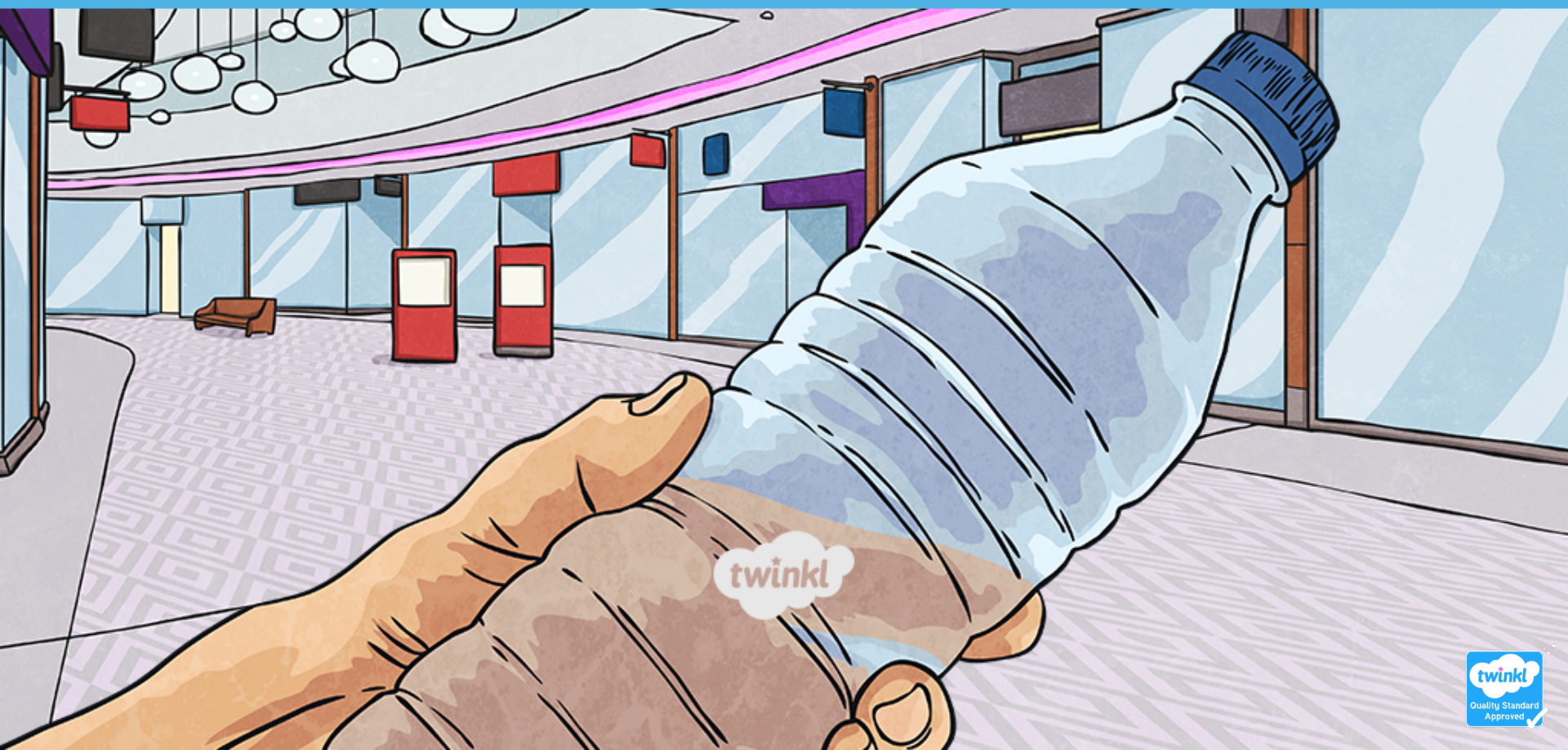


Should Shoppers Pay a Plastic Bottle Deposit?



The Plastic Problem

What Is Plastic Pollution?

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the pollution and damage it causes to the environment.

1. Because plastic is cheap and easy to make, humans buy and use a lot of it.



2. They then throw this away.



3. But, plastic is strong and durable because it was made to last. So when it is disposed of, it takes hundreds of years to decompose.



4. It breaks into tiny pieces (micro-plastics), which get blown around by the wind and the rain, ending up in our waterways.

The Plastic Problem

The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing more and more rapidly, meaning it is threatening our planet through:

- poisoning and injuring sea life
- littering beaches and landscapes;
- clogging rubbish landfills;
- making humans (and other animals) ill.


The Plastic Problem


Two recent reports warn that:

Plastic pollution in the sea could treble within ten years unless marine litter is reduced drastically.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch – an artificial island of plastic in the Pacific ocean, which is twice the size of France - is thought to contain 79,000 tonnes of floating waste plastic and micro-plastic.

A recent television programme raised awareness when it highlighted the problem by showing footage of wildlife eating plastic.



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Well, I don't think my
apples would stay
fresh without plastic
packaging so I don't
want to get rid of it.

What would you say to her?

Positive Plastic

Due to its strength and durability, plastic can be very useful in everyday life:

- Plastic packaging will keep food fresh for longer;
- Plastics are used to store medicines due to the hygienic nature of the material;
- Plastic is even used to make sport helmets and bulletproof vests strong.



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When used correctly, plastic can last a long time and, when disposed of correctly, plastic bottles can be recycled into many other useful products.

What Has Been Done Already?

- Harmful [microbeads](#) (found in various products such as toothpaste and shower gels) have been banned recently in an attempt to reduce the contamination of fish in the English channel and beyond.

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- The plastic bag tax, which was introduced in 2015 has been a huge success, with the use of [single-use](#) bags down by 83%. Shoppers are encouraged to buy reusable bags.

What Do People Say?

Discuss in groups and make a list (on whiteboards or jotting paper) of things that people say about the current initiatives aiming to reduce plastic pollution.

After five minutes, share and compare your ideas.

Positive	Negative	Further Questions




Start

Compare it

The Plastic Bottle Deposit

- People in England will soon have to pay a deposit when they buy drinks bottles, in an effort to increase recycling and reduce waste.
- UK consumers use around 13 billion plastic drinks bottles a year but more than three billion are not recycled.
- The deposit will increase prices but customers will get the money back if they return the bottle.
- Full details are yet to be decided, including how big the deposit will be, but it is expected to be between 8p and 22p per bottle.
- The government believe that reward and return schemes work well to encourage people to change.
- Similar schemes in northern Europe have led to a big increase in the amount of plastic recycled.

A background illustration showing a hand holding a large, clear glass bottle. The setting appears to be a shop or supermarket, with shelves and other bottles visible in the background. The illustration is in a simple, cartoonish style with muted colors.

But if I buy
everything in glass
bottles, they'll smash.



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What would you say to him?

What Do People Think?

Discuss in groups and make a list (on whiteboards or jotting paper) of things that people say about the current initiatives aiming to reduce plastic pollution.

After five minutes, share and compare your ideas.

Positive	Negative



Start

Compare it

Conclusions

You've done some in-depth thinking about the different effects the plastic bottle deposit will have on the UK.

Now think about the conclusions you can draw.

You have five minutes to discuss your findings before we share what you think with the rest of the class.

You might want to make some notes on your whiteboards or jotter sheets.



Start



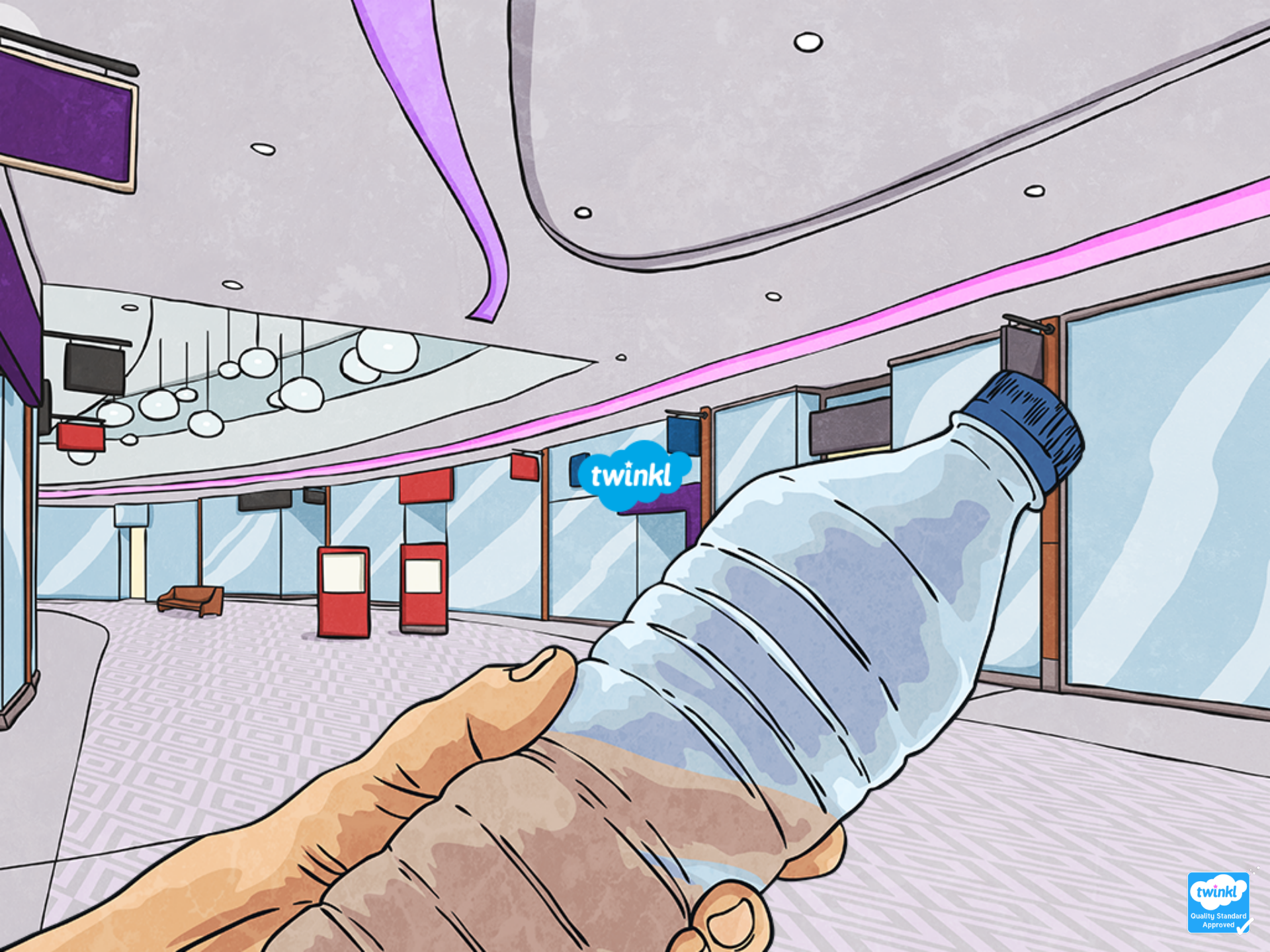
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Conclusions



Finish this sentence:
“The plastic bottle deposit
is good for the UK because...”





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