Fact-Finding Mission: Plastic waste

This fun hide-and-seek game is a great way for students to learn lots of fascinating facts about plastic waste

How to play

The aim of this Fact-finding mission is for students to find the 10 fact cards hidden around school and use these to answer the questions about plastic waste on the Worksheet (see page 2).

The mission can be undertaken by individuals or groups, so it's a good rainy day activity for your class or Eco Club.

Before you start

- If needed, photocopy additional copies of the Worksheet.
- Hide the fact cards around school (it's up to you how hard you make the search!)

Tips for making the mission easier:

- Stick numbers on each fact card to guide the students to the right answer.
- Give the group a sneak peak of the 10 fact cards, so they know what to look for.
- Position the fact cards closer together around school.
- Give students hints about where each fact card is hidden.

Tips for making the mission more challenging:

- Set a time limit in which the groups have to find the fact cards.
- Ask students to find a new waste fact of their own to accompany each picture.
- Make it a competitive challenge and award a prize for the first group to complete the mission!

Extension activities

Follow the activity with a discussion about the facts the students have learnt. What have they discovered about plastic waste that they didn't know before? Are they shocked by anything they've learnt? Will they do anything differently in future? How do they think we could tackle the problem of plastic waste?

Homework task: Older or more able students could research further plastic waste facts and create their own Fact-finding mission for younger children. This would make a good buddy activity.

Find more waste facts and activities at www.jointhepod.org/waste

Learn more about waste at
www.jointhepod.org

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Fact-Finding Mission: Plastic waste worksheet

Name: .....

Q1. Fill in the missing percentage:

Answer: .....% of plastic packaging is wasted after a single use.

Q2. Fill in the missing word:

Answer: There could be more plastic than ..... (by weight) in the sea by 2050.

Q3. Fill in the missing number:

Answer: If you laid out end-to-end all the plastic bottles that aren't recycled in the UK every year, they'd wrap around the world ..... times!

Q4. Fill in the missing words:

Answer: More than 150 ..... litter each mile of UK beaches.

Q5. Where do plastic straws often end up?

Answer: .....

Q6. Fill in the missing word:

Answer: ..... in the oceans is thought to kill millions of marine animals.

Q7. What percentage of plastic pots, tubs and trays are recycled in the UK?

Answer: .....

Q8. Fill in the missing words:

Answer: We've produced more plastic over the last ..... years than during the whole of the last .....

Q9. Name one of the most common forms of microplastic in the ocean:

Answer: .....

Q10. Name one solution scientists are working on to combat plastic waste:

Answer: .....

Source: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf

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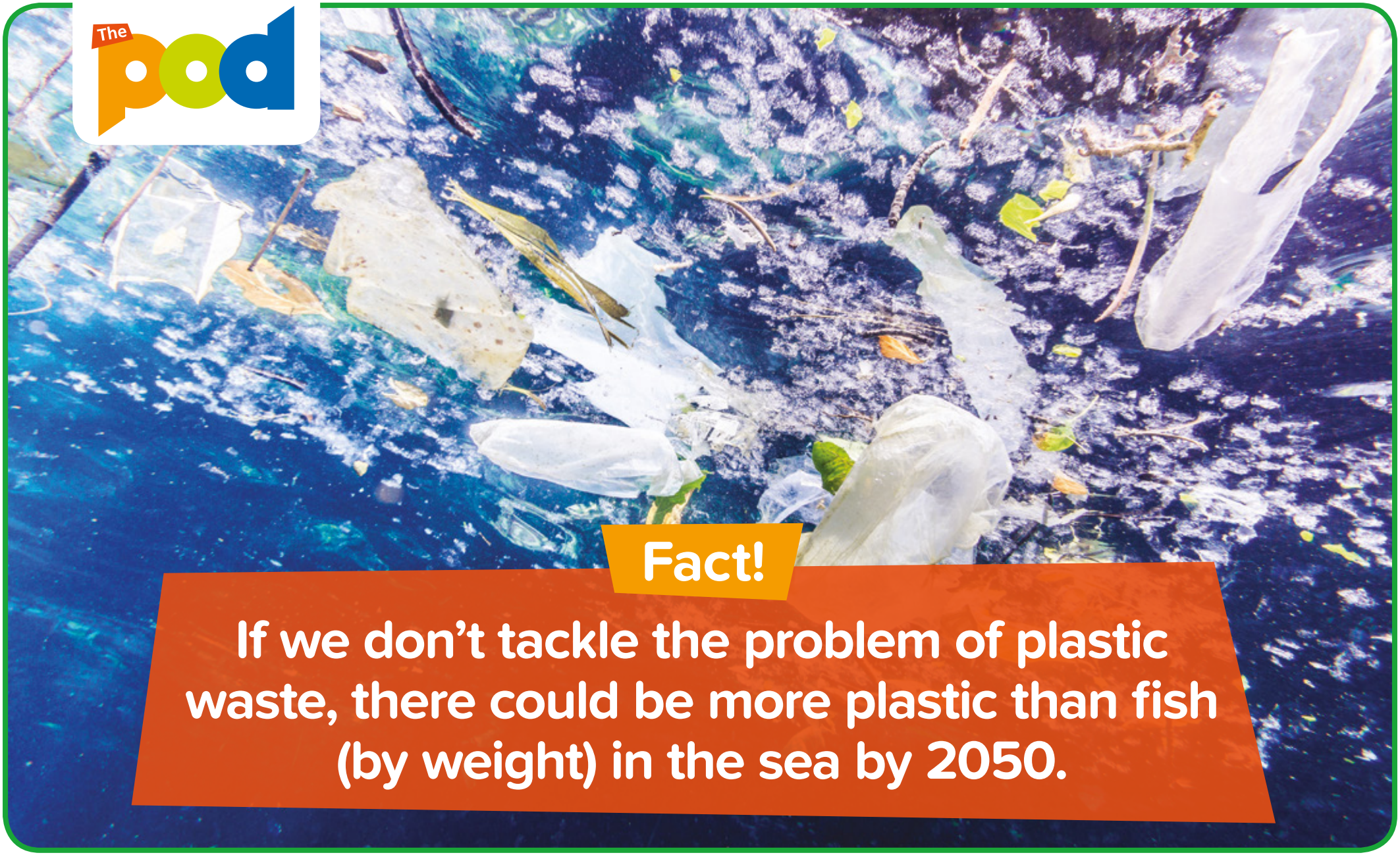

Source: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics-catalysing-action

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Source: http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/new-initiative-transform-uk-plastics-system-and-tackle-plastic-pollution

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Source: https://www.sas.org.uk/our-work/plastic-pollution/plastic-pollution-facts-figures/

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Source: https://thelastplasticstraw.org

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Source: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-waste-pollution-trash-crisis/

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Source: https://www.recyclenow.com/plastic-planet

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Source: https://plasticoceans.org/the-facts/

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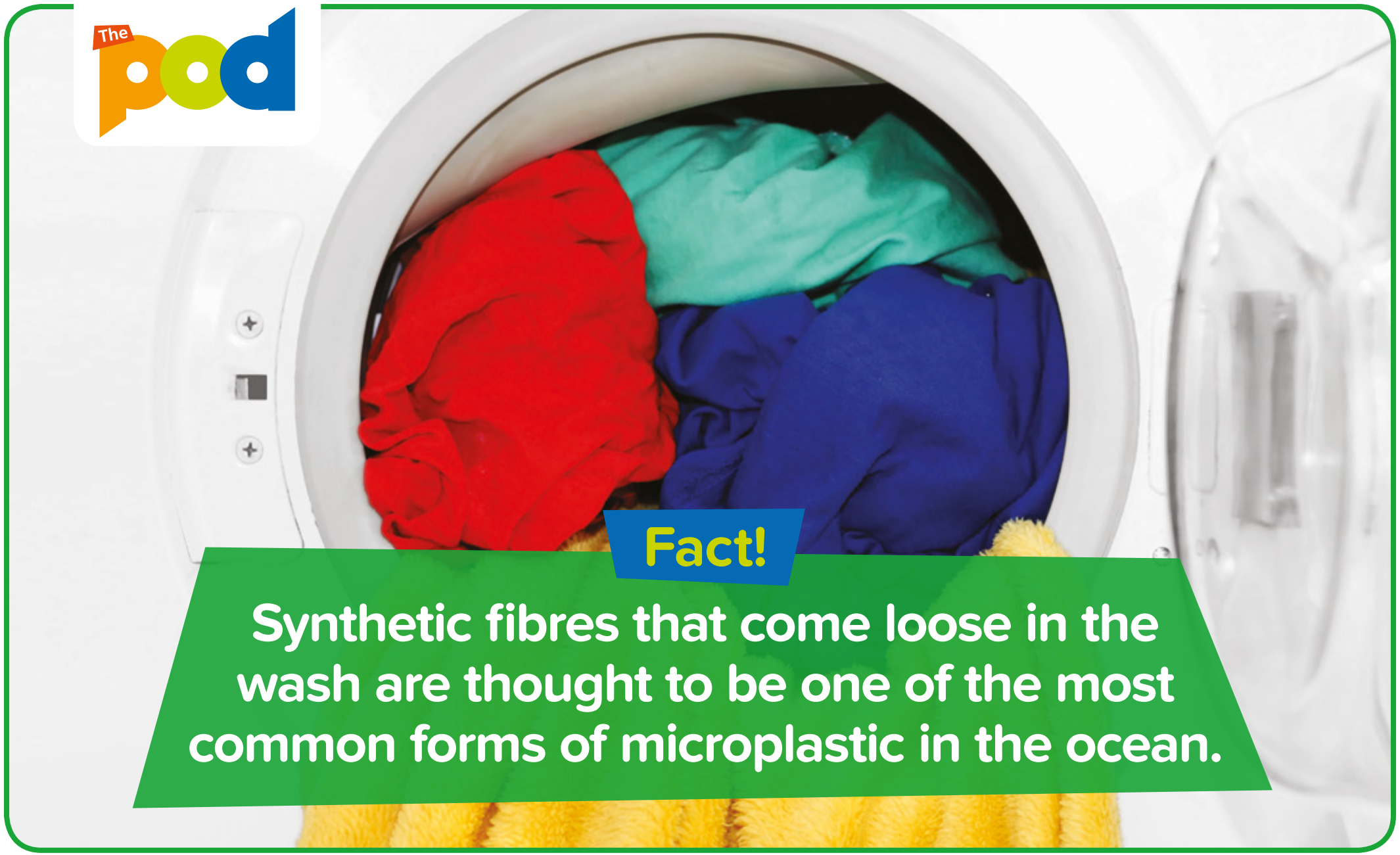

Source: https://theconversation.com/how-your-pile-of-laundry-fills-the-sea-with-plastic-pollution-80109

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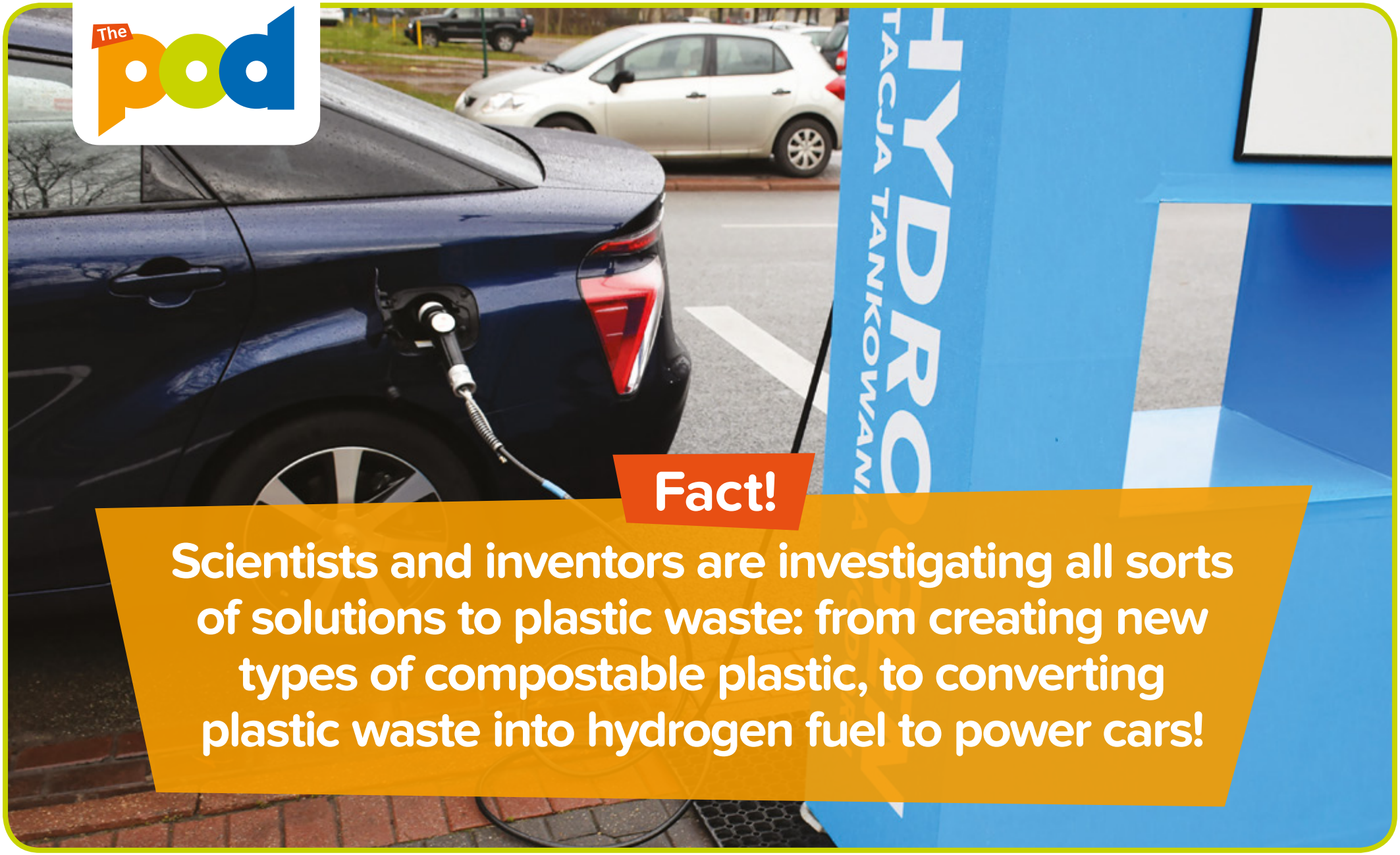

Fact!

Scientists and inventors are investigating all sorts of solutions to plastic waste: from creating new types of compostable plastic, to converting plastic waste into hydrogen fuel to power cars!

Sources: http://www.wrap.org.uk/category/materials-and-products/plastics and https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/plastic-waste-fuel-renewable-environment-recycling-swansea-university-a8520956.html

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