Is plastic pollution a problem? (SHORT VERSION – 227 WORDS)

Many news articles highlight the evils of plastic pollution. We are told not to use plastic, cut down on it, or find alternatives. So is the problem as severe as society is being led to believe, or is it just a storm in a broadcasting teacup?

Firstly, not all plastics are the enemy. Products created from plastic are useful for their cheap costs and for their strength. Plastic will not rot or rust. In fact, it seems to be a perfect material to mould into almost anything.

Furthermore, single-use plastics are invaluable to the food and drink industry. We can store foods which might have a much shorter shelf-life without plastic wrapping. For example, a wrapped cucumber lasts more than three times as long as an unwrapped one.

However, single-use plastics have been criticised for doing harm to our Earth. Television programmes have shown that animals are ingesting plastic rubbish and dying. Moreover, statistics state that over 150 million tonnes of plastic end up in the sea and 100,000 sea mammals die from eating and getting tangled in plastic waste each year.

In conclusion, plastic has many advantages when designing and making reusable products, but we can do without single-use items. By making small sacrifices, we can ensure a safer environment in which our wildlife is able to thrive.