

BIG NEWS

CLASSROOMS MADE FROM PLASTIC



PLASTIC rubbish is being put to good use in Africa – it's being made into classrooms!

Ivory Coast – a country on the west coast of Africa – has a lot of plastic rubbish, but only 5% (one twentieth) is recycled.

Now, some of the plastic is being turned into building blocks in a new factory set up by the charity Unicef.

The interlocking bricks can be tapped together with just a hammer. Much-needed classrooms can be built quickly and cheaply. A person from Unicef said: "The bricks require no sand, no cement and a classroom can be built in less than a month."

Because the plastic waste now has a value, women in the community are collecting it up and selling it to the factory. The money helps to pay for their children's education in the newly-built classrooms!

Six classrooms made from the blocks are already in use around Ivory Coast. Unicef is working with a recycling company called Conceptos Plásticos on the project and hopes to take the idea to other African countries soon.



Questions on: 'Classrooms made from plastic'

1) In which African country is this project taking place?

☐ Ivory Coast ☐ Egypt ☐ South Africa

2) Who is behind the project?

1) _____ 2) _____

3) How much of the plastic in this country is recycled?

4) Fill in the numbers.

It takes less than month to build a classroom from the blocks.

The blocks have already been used to make classrooms.

5) Can you find a word that means 'fitting firmly together'?

6) Put the steps in the correct order.

The factory makes it into plastic blocks ☐

People collect plastic waste ☐

The blocks are used to build new classrooms ☐

They sell it to a factory to earn money ☐

7) Why are these blocks a bit similar to Lego?

8) What are the benefits of the project? Why is it good for...

The environment: _____

Parents who need to earn money: _____

Children: _____