

Find the polluter

Professor:

So, you want to keep looking for the polluter. For that reason, it would be helpful if we find out what plastic we have here.

Here are two different plastic-eating bacteria: both Bacteria only eat one type of plastic, you could say they have a favorite food.

Simon:

The way I like to eat pizza, but I hate brussels sprouts

Professor:

That's right Simon and in this way, we can find out what kind of plastic you brought with you from Obersee. The favourite dish of one or the other bacterium

Narrator:

The professor goes to a big cupboard and gets two transparent strips out.

Professor:

I got two chips with two different bacteria on them.

If the bacterium on the chip likes the plastic, we feed him then the chip lights up.

Emma, please place a small piece of plastic on the right chip. Yes right there in the drop.

Narrator:

Emma puts a small piece of plastic with tweezers on the first chip. Nothing happens.

Simon:

It's lame, nothing happens.

Amira:

That means that the bacteria don't like the plastic, right?

Professor:

Very good Amira just right. Then put a piece of plastic on the other strip, Emma.

Narrator:

Shortly after Emma has put the piece of plastic on the other chip the chip begins to glow.

Simon:

Wow that's cool, so the plastic was like pizza for the bacterium?

Professor:

Exactly, these bacteria (on the blue chip) find the plastic tasty. These bacteria only eat particularly heavy plastic particles. Such plastic particles are very rarely used.

Narrator:

The professor sits at a computer and types on the keyboard.

Prof:

You are lucky! Only one company in NRW is producing such plastic. The company MAXI Plastik is located in Brackwede.

Amira:

Well then let's pay them a visit.

Emma:

Brackwede, to get there we can take the streetcar 4 to the main station and then change to the bus.

Narrator:

The children thank the professor, hand in their lab coats, leave the university and

get on the streetcar.

Emma:

Amira do you think that Maxi Plastik is talking to us?

Amira:

Hm I don't know either.

Simon:

We could say that we want to write an article for the school paper about plastic and therefore interviewing Maxi Plastik.

Narrator:

After a subsequent bus ride, they stand before several large white-grey buildings. On a signboard in orange writing is a lettering "MAXI plastic".

They enter the building.

Simon:

Wow this is quite a big place here.

Emma:

There is a reception desk.

Narrator:

The children walk towards the reception desk to a woman in a grey Pinstripe suit.

Amira:

We are students at Max-Planck Gymnasium and would like to write an article about plastic for the school newspaper. Would you give us an interview about your plastic production?

Narrator:

The woman behind the reception desk frowned and looked critically about her

horn-rimmed glasses on the children.

Concierge:

I don't think any of our employees would have time for something like that.

Amira:

Okay too bad then we better go now.

Simon:

But we have to find out who polluted our lake!

Amira

(whispers): shh Simon I already have a plan.

Narrator:

The children go through the front door and step out into the afternoon sun.

Simon:

Well that was a bust.

Emma:

What did you just mean by a plan Amira?

Amira:

I thought we'd sneak around the building and see if a window is open.

Simon:

You want to break in?

Amira:

No, just looking around.

Narrator:

Said, done the children walk around the building and look for an open window.

When they walked around for a while Emma suddenly calls.

Emma:

Amira, Simon look, a window is open here. This looks a little bit scary.

Narrator:

The children investigate a room with many blinking machines. The white floors and ceilings and the red tables remind of the laboratory in the Teutolab.

Simon:

This looks so similar to the one in Teutolab I'm sure this is a laboratory.

Amira:

I'm going in there now are you coming?

Simon:

I'd rather stay outside and make sure nobody comes in.

Narrator:

Amira opens the window even wider and is the first to climb into the laboratory. Emma follows her. They approach an open cabinet they see two large jars with white and blue liquid.

Emma:

Look Amira the colours here in the jars they look exactly like the colours from the plastic we found.

Amira:

Let's move on there's a door over there.

Narrator:

The girls go through the door and end up in another lab with a large container that reaches up to the ceiling in there is a green liquid.

Amira:

What is this green fluid in this container?

Emma:

Hm I don't know.

Narrator:

Suddenly there is a beeping sound and a door behind the container opens. A man in a lab coat comes through the door.

Prof. Maier: Hello what are you two doing here?

Amira:

I am Amira and this is Emma. We are students of the Max-Planck Gymnasium and we found plastic at the Obersee because of that we want to write an article about plastic.

Prof. Maier: Hello you two I am Professor Maier. That is of course not enjoyable that you found plastic in the environment. I am producing a plastic that consists of corn and decomposes in the environment and thus does not burden the environment. Here in the container you can see this green corn plastic.

Emma:

That's cool!

Amira:

We saw two jars in the lab behind us with white and a blue liquid. The colors are similar to the plastic we found at Obersee.

Prof. Meier:

Hm, that sounds like the old plastic we used to use but this should not have been produced anymore. Let's have a look.

Narrator:

The children go back to the first laboratory with Professor Meier.

Prof. Meier:

You are right, these are two jars with our old plastic.

I will immediately talk to our boss about who has produced this but you should really go now because you have no protective clothing. You can give me your phone number then I will call you tomorrow.

Emma:

Okay thank you i'll write my number here on this piece of paper.

Narrator:

The girls thank Professor Maier and leave the lab and put Simon on the latest state of the art. Afterwards they went home. On the first day Emma's phone rings.

Prof. Maier on the phone:

Hello Emma this is Professor Maier. I talked to my boss and there were two containers with old plastic. Now we only produce our green corn plastic which decomposes in the environment so you didn't have to be concerned.

Emma:

Thank you so much for calling us. May we write about your corn plastic for the school newspaper?

Prof. Maier:

You are welcome to do that. Please send me a copy of your article.