The Breakdown

Plastic products make up our everyday lives, but after we are done using them they will be around far longer than we are in some cases. Try this matching activity to see if you know how long it takes for common plastics to break down.

Know before you begin
- This activity can be done inside or outside
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

Materials
- Plastic breakdown page

Instructions
- Match the plastic to the time it takes to break down
  - What are some alternatives you use in your home?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Water Bottle</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Toothbrush</td>
<td>200 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Straw</td>
<td>450 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Bag</td>
<td>500 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer Key:
Plastic bag = 20 years to breakdown
Plastic Straw= 200 years to breakdown
Plastic Water Bottle= 450 years to breakdown
Plastic Toothbrush= 500 years to breakdown