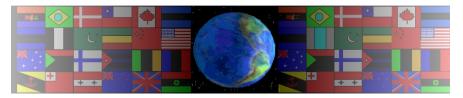
## PACKAGING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 1

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On behalf of The World Association of Technology Teachers

W.A.T.T.



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## PACKAGING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 1



## BIO DEGRADABLE PACKAGING PLASTICS



BIOPLASTICS

Polymers / plastics have a reputation of being environmentally unfriendly. They take years and in some cases centuries to decay. However, plastic

bags made from **Polylactide (PLA)** take only five years to decompose. Containers such as drinking bottles and food containers manufactured from PLA, take slightly longer to decay, as they are manufactured from thinker material.

Polylactide is referred to as a 'bioplastic' because of its environmentally friendly nature.

Courtesy of www.technologystudent.com

## BIO DEGRADABLE PLASTICS FROM CORN STARCH (POLYLACTIDE)

Corn starch is a renewable material, as it is produced from plants and NOT from oil.

It is biodegradable / compostable, decomposing over a short period of time.

Traditional plastic can take centuries to decompose, polluting the surrounding environment.





Courtesy of www.technologystudent.com

Sandwich cartons, such as the one shown opposite, are often made from environmentally friendly materials.

The window of the food carton (seen above) has been manufactured from corn starch rather than traditional plastics derived from oil. Explain why corn starch has been chosen. 4 marks