

THERE'S PLENTY OF PLASTIC IN THE SEA.

How did this happen?



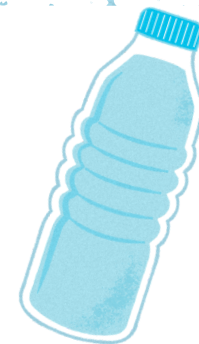
PLASTICS AND PEOPLE: A LOVE STORY

It's easy to see why plastic is an attractive choice. Plastic has some ideal qualities that look good on paper.



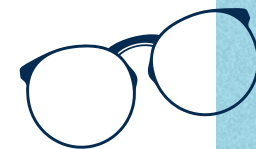
PROTECTIVE

Keeps pests, microbes,
and humidity away



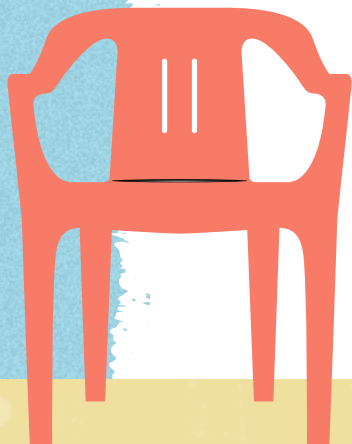
EASY-GOING

Makes it easy to transport,
especially to isolated islands



BUILT TO LAST

Durable and reusable



CARING

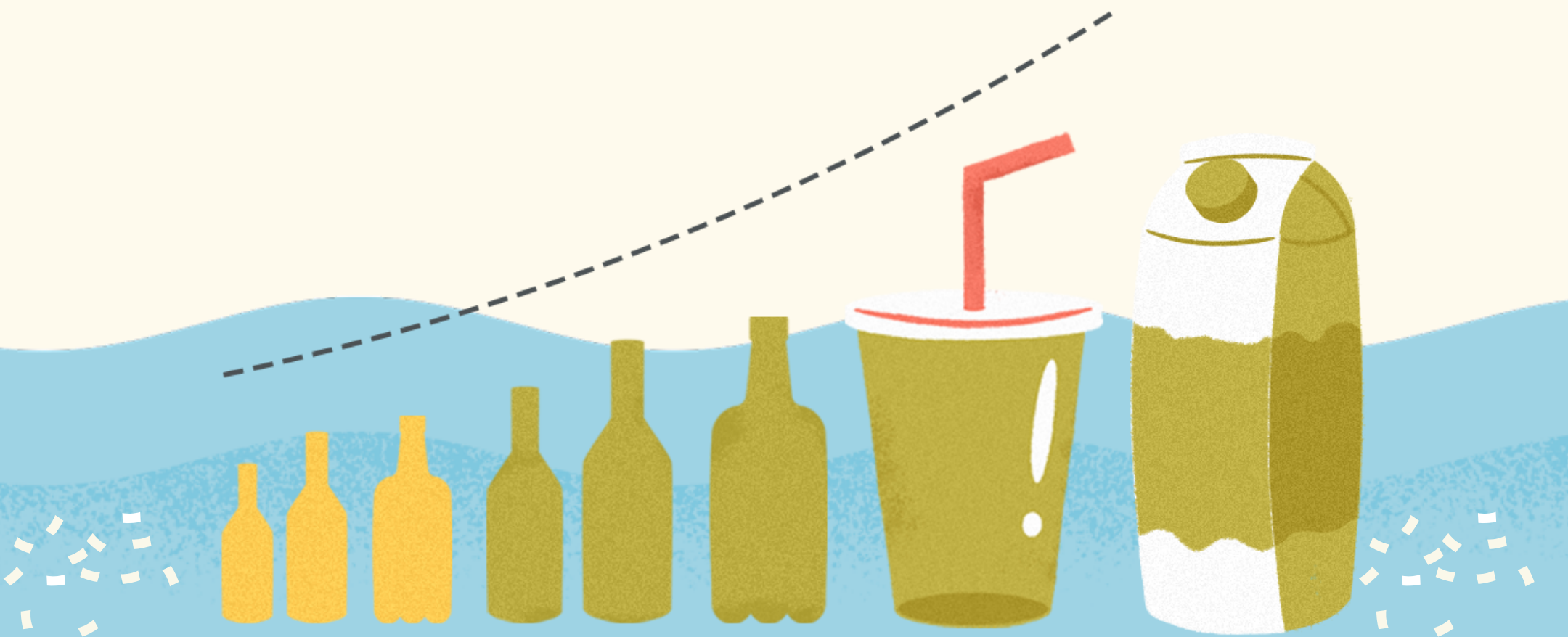
Keeps our medicine and other
personal care products fresh



PLASTIC WASTE: A BAD ROMANCE

The qualities that make plastic attractive can also make it problematic. While using plastic has a lot of benefits, plastic waste has none.

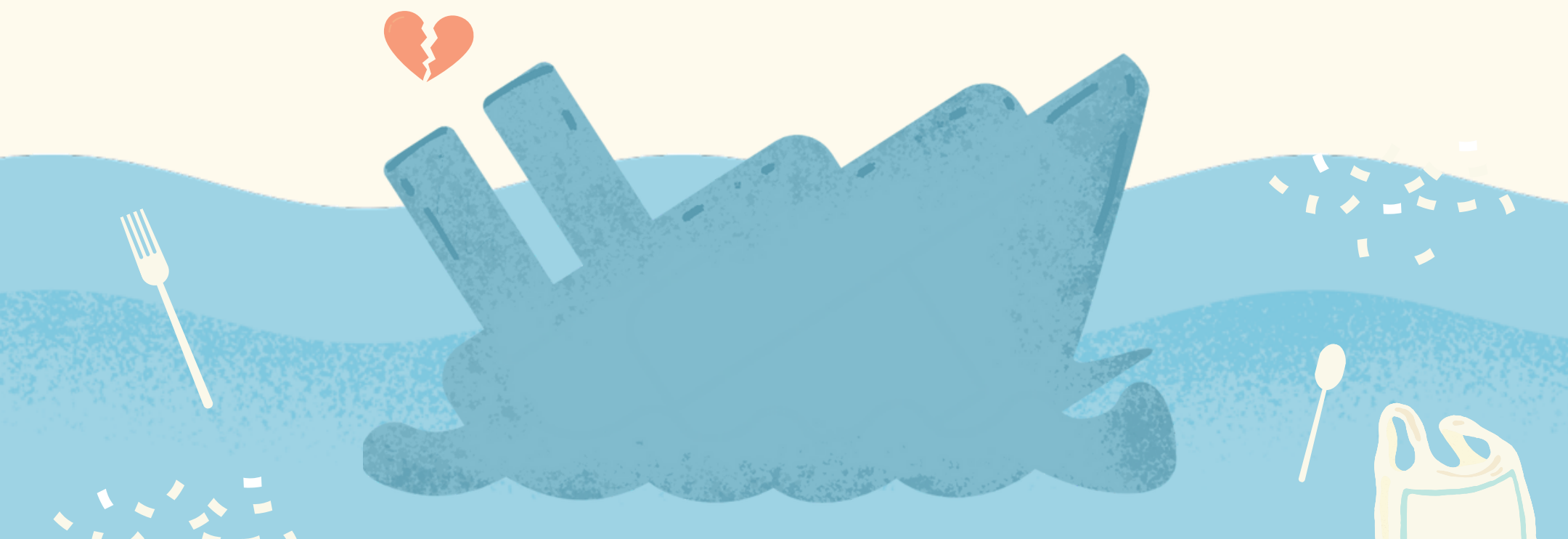
The increasing reliance on plastic, lack of infrastructure, and poor waste management practices lead to more plastic in the sea.



PLASTIC WASTE AND OUR WATERS: THE PAIR NO ONE SHIPS

About 8 million tons of plastic end up in our ocean annually.

Approximately 0.28 - 0.75 million tons of plastic per year comes from the Philippines.



HOW DID PLASTIC WASTE AND THE OCEAN END UP TOGETHER?

Our country is made up of thousands of islands, which means plastic can easily find its way from our shelves to our shores if we let it.

Rivers and other waterways serve as highways transporting our wastes from land to ocean. A recent study by The Ocean Cleanup named the Philippines as the top country leaking trash into rivers. Yikes.



BIG PROBLEMS COME IN SMALL PACKAGING.

The country's socio-economic situation created the tingi-tingi culture, which supports millions of low- to middle-income households. This resulted in the sachet economy.

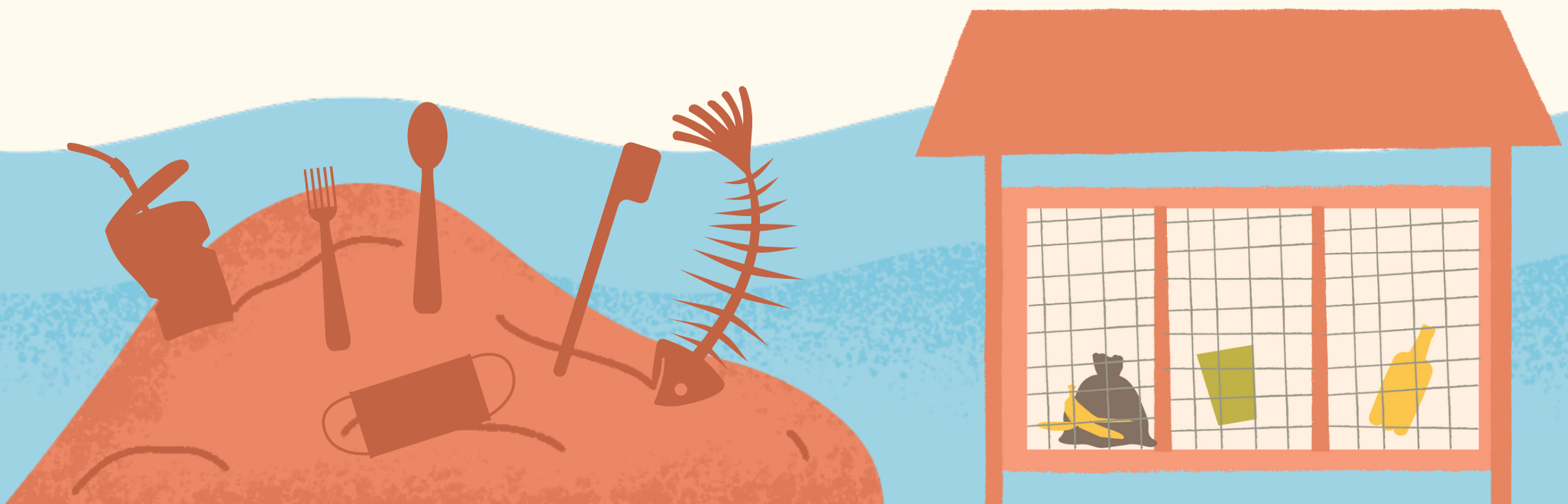
Sachets are made of multi-layer plastics and mixed materials that most recyclers can't process. Since sachets hold little to no value for recyclers, they often end up as marine litter.



LANDFILLS AND RECYCLERS: THE TRUE FINAL DESTINY?

As of 2020, existing sanitary landfills only support 24% of local governments. About 70% of Filipinos still don't have access to landfills and disposal facilities.

Some of these landfills operate as open dumpsites, which are illegal and lead to public health and environmental issues.



GOT DUMPED?

Not all that's dumped is meant to be dumped. As the saying goes, one person's trash is another person's treasure.

For plastics, most recyclers and junk shops only accept PET (e.g., plastic beverage bottles) and HDPE (e.g., plastic personal and home care bottles).



KEEP PLASTICS AND THE OCEAN APART.

The use of plastics has helped speed up technological, medical, and other advancements for society, but our reliance on plastic, its design, and lack of final destinations have led to this toxic relationship.

Some things are better off apart.

