Name_____

Analyze the graphs below and write a reflection on what you think the graphs are communicating to you. To guide you with your response, start with some observations.

- What are the topics of the graphs?
- What quantities are being compared?
- What are some observations that you can make based on the graphs?
- What surprises you about the graph? What do you wonder?
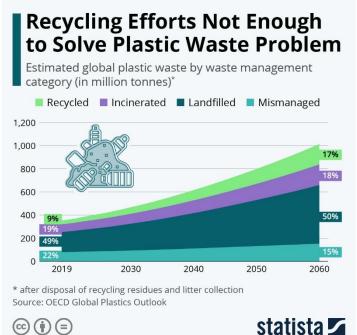- What do you foresee happening in the next 10 years?

Questions to ask when reading graphs:

- Is there an upward or downward trend?
- Are there any sudden spikes in the graph?
- What is being compared in the graph?
- What prediction can I make for the future?
- What inferences can I make about the graph?

Recycling Efforts Not Enough to Solve Plastic Waste Problem

Estimated global plastic waste by waste management category (in million tonnes)*

- Recycled
- Incinerated
- Landfilled
- Mismanaged

2019: 9%, 19%, 49%, 22%
2060: 17%, 18%, 50%, 15%

Years: 2019, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060

* after disposal of recycling residues and litter collection
Source: OECD Global Plastics Outlook

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Plastic Items Dominate Ocean Garbage

The 10 most widespread waste items polluting the world's oceans*

Item	Percentage
Plastic bags	14.1%
Plastic bottles	11.9%
Food containers/cutlery	9.4%
Wrappers	9.1%
Synthetic rope	7.9%
Fishing items	7.6%
Plastic caps/lids	6.1%
Industrial packaging	3.4%
Glass bottles	3.4%
Drinks cans	3.2%

* Based on waste items found in seven aquatic ecosystems globally.
Source: Carmen Morales-Caselles et al. (2021)

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