

Our research question:

- Plastic bags are helpful to humans but harmful to planet earth. How are they harmful and how can we act as global citizens to improve the plastic bag problem?

Some questions to get us started:

- What do we already know about how plastic bags hurt the environment?
- Where do bags end up after they're used?
- How do bags breakdown...or do they?
- How many bags/week does your family use?
- What do you use plastic bags for?
- What if you didn't have any plastic bags?

Journal Questions

- What do you wonder about plastic bags in the environment? Do you want to know more about how animals, including sea life, are affected? Are you interested in coming up with solutions? Or maybe you'd like to tackle the problem of bags in Missoula?
- What connections can you make to your own life?

Research Ideas

- Research how bad the problem is. Where is it the worst – in what country? What are the symptoms of the problem? Research what people are doing about plastic bags in the environment.

Another idea....

- What living things do bags hurt?
How do they hurt? What are people doing to help animals?
Give examples.

Another idea....

- What cities, states and countries have outlawed plastic bag use? How did they do this? What countries charge \$ for bags? How is it working out?

Another idea....

- Research the debate about which bag to use, paper or plastic. What do you think would be best? Talk about the life of plastic and paper bags from start to finish.

Another idea...

- What can you do to help the environment? What can you do to get rid of this problem? Would it help to write the city council of Missoula? The Montana legislature? What would you say in your letter? What are your solutions? Are you sure they would work?

Another idea...

- Launch an educational campaign in Target Range School, letting people know the consequences of plastic bag use on the environment around Missoula. Make posters, write newsletters, do presentations in classrooms – the sky is the limit.

Here are some websites that might help you get started on your research:

- <http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/interesting-facts-about-plastic-bags>
- <http://www.inspirationgreen.com/plastic-bag-stats.html>
- <http://www.environmentmassachusetts.org/sites/environment/files/reports/Bag%20Ban%20Fact%20Sheet%200.pdf>

More websites....

- <http://mediamatters.org/research/2014/10/08/californias-plastic-bag-ban-myths-and-facts/201064>
- https://www.facebook.com/banthebagmissoula/info?tab=page_info
- <http://whichcountrieshavebannedplasticbags.blogspot.com/>

It is REALLY EASY to find information about all aspects of plastic bags on the Web. Try searching these terms:

- plastic bags facts
- plastic bags Missoula
- plastic bag solutions
- dangers of plastic bags

And these....

- plastic bags ocean life
- plastic bags animals
- plastic bag bans
- plastic bags bans in countries