

# Plastic Bags Are Everywhere

**Essential Question:** *Plastic bags are helpful to humans but harmful to planet Earth; how can we act as global citizens to resolve the plastic bag problem?*

# Thinking Before Researching

- How bad is this problem?
- What would you like to know about the plastic bag problem?
- What do you already know about this problem?
- What can be done about plastic bags?

# Suggestions for Research Topics

What exactly is the problem?

Where do plastic bags go after humans are done using them?

What living things do bags hurt?

How many plastic bags are used each year in the world and how many of these are recycled?

Why do we need to do anything about plastic bags?

# Plastic Bag Bans

What countries have banned plastic bags?

<http://www.factorydirectpromos.com/plastic-bag-bans>

How did they do it?

The state of California has made plastic bags illegal there. How is that working out?

# Bag Creation and Recycling

How are plastic bags made? Are there any problems with the process?

How are plastic bags recycled? What is the recycled material used for?

# Why Can't We Just Use Paper Bags?

Is there a problem with using paper bags all the time?

How are paper bags made?

How are paper bags recycled? Are there any problems with the recycling process?

# How People Help

Who is doing something about this problem?

How are people helping animals who get tangled in plastic bags?

How are people cleaning up plastic bags that end up in the environment?

# Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

- What can we do in Missoula?
- Would writing letters and/or talking to the City Council about banning plastic bags be a good thing to do (or not)? How could this help (or not)?
- Could we start by banning plastic bags at Target Range School? How would we do that? What might some problems be with doing this?
- Should we write to the Montana legislature?
- What are your ideas for a solution?



# Plastic Bags, Up Close and Personal (in Missoula)



# Bags in Our Trees and Bushes



# Who Cares?



# People Working for a Cleaner Environment in Missoula



# Creative Recycle Ideas

## ART! Who made this whale? Why?

