

- discuss the different kinds of bags used for shopping
- discuss the various uses for each type of bag
- understand the impact reusing shopping bags can have on our household waste
- become aware of local recycling opportunities for plastic bags

IRP outcomes

It is expected that students will:

[SS] Describe and demonstrate responsible behaviour to local environments (K-3)

[PP] Relate consequences to actions and decisions (K-1)

[SC] Describe ways to rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle (K)

Bag It! (K-3)

Intro: Each week Canadians take home 55 million plastic bags. Reusing plastic bags or taking your own cloth bag on shopping trips will not only reduce the number of plastic bags you have in your house, but will also save resources. You may even save money. Some grocery stores will subtract a few cents off your total bill if you use your own shopping bag instead of taking your groceries home in plastic or paper bags.

Reusable shopping bags can carry environmental messages or they can be as individual as the artists that create them.

Materials:

- fabric paints
- cloth bags
 - have students bring their own bag or reuse old T-shirts and/or pillowcases. For examples, search “DIY T-shirt bag” online e.g. <http://en.paperblog.com/diy-t-shirt-bag-266376/>

Did you know?



The CRD conducts Solid Waste Stream Composition Studies every five years.

Discover the estimated weight of plastic bags landfilled at Hartland:

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/solid-waste-management>

Chris Jordan’s interactive art *Running the Numbers II: Venus 2009* depicts plastic bags used around the world every ten seconds.

www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/rtn2/#venus

Activity: Discuss all the possibilities for reusing a paper or plastic bag from the grocery store. How long do they usually last before they fall apart? What happens to them after they are reused a few times? What options exist for not using a plastic or paper bag (e.g. basket, cloth bag, backpack)?

Students will create and decorate their own shopping bag. They can use this bag when grocery shopping with their family. Students can think about appropriate pictures (e.g. food, earth, environmental logos) and/or create a slogan or environmental message.

Students can create their designs with fabric paints or markers. Start on one side of the bag. Ensure a piece of cardboard or some other strong, flat material is placed in the bag to prevent the paint from going through to the other side. Once dry, decorate the other side.

Conclusion/Discussion: How will this new bag help to create less waste? What are other ways for reusing the paper or plastic bags that you already have at home? E.g. use paper bags for empty toilet rolls and knit or crochet plastic grocery bags into a more durable bag.

Extension Activities: ■ Take the Plastic Bag Pledge at www.crd.bc.ca/recycle. ■ Participate in the Earth Day Groceries Project www.earthdaybags.org. ■ Take action and get involved in local Earth Day events. Visit the Earth Day Canada website at www.earthday.ca.