**Bag It! Is your life too plastic?**

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Bag it: Where is away?

**Statistics of Plastics**

12 million gallons of oil/year to make plastic bags

60,000 plastic bags consumed in US every 5 minutes.

1 billion plastic bags/year in NYC alone.

One half a water bottle with oil is required to produce and transport the water.

106,000 aluminum cans consumed in US every 30 seconds.

300 million cups/day in US

2 million water bottles/day

17 million barrels of oil/year to make water bottles.

The average American produces 1 ton of waste each year.

71 barrels of waste generated upstream for every one barrel on the curb.

260 marine species are affected by plastic ingestion.

120,000 marine animals killed/year

5 tons of plastic brought to Midway Atoll each year by adult albatross.

6 million pieces of trash enter the ocean each day.

125,000 new chemical are registered for use

1 in 150 children are now affected by autism.

1. What is plastic made from?
2. What are the beneficial properties of plastics?
3. What is the number one consumer item in the world?
4. What did Ireland and San Francisco do solve their bag problem?
5. Which is better? Paper or plastic?
6. What are some other alternatives to plastic bags?

Bag it: “Single-use disposable”

1. Explain what is meant by a “single-use disposable” item.
2. Give five examples of single-use disposable items?
3. What are some alternatives to recycling plastic soda bottles as is done in Germany?
4. What is the impact of “single-use disposable” products on the US economy?
5. What is the cost of bottled water?
6. What are some things you can do at the supermarket or at school to reduce your consumption of plastic?

Bag it: Where does recycling go?”

1. Which plastics are recycled?
2. What decides which plastics are recycled?
3. What does the terms recycled and down cycled differ?
4. What is a cradle-to-cradle design process?
5. What are the key issues of social equity that surround plastics and recycling?

Bag it: North Pacific Subtropical Gyre

1. What is the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre?
2. What is the difference between biodegradable and photodegradable?
3. Where do most plastics found in the ocean come from?
4. What happens to plastics caught in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre?
5. How do plastics increase the bioaccumulation of toxins in marine organisms?
6. How do plastics facilitate the biomagnification of toxins in higher organisms?

Bag it: Questions of Health

1. How do the US and Europe differ in their approach to new chemicals in products?
2. Why is there a growing concern over phthalates and BPA? What heath conditions and diseases are associated with each?
3. What are some common products that contain BPA?
4. In which plastics are phthalates commonly found?
5. What are some things you can do to reduce your contribution of plastic pollution?