ACTIVITY BOOKLET

WORLD OCEANS DAY
JUNE 8th

Trash your trash

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Learning objective and notes	Materials and set up
Discuss the harmful effects of plastic bags and take steps to reduce bag use. All ages.	Outdoor activity. You need a fence or something lining a walkway 390 plastic bags String (or, you can tie the bags to themselves)

Activity description

--Background--
Here are a few facts about plastic bags to discuss with your guests:

- The US uses 380 billion plastic bags/yr and only 3% are recycled.
- The average US family uses 15 plastic bags in 1 trip to the grocery store = 390 plastic grocery bags/year.
- 100,000 marine animals are killed every year when they mistake plastic for food or become entangled.
- A fourth of the trash in our landfills is made of plastic and it takes 1,000 years for them to degrade in a landfill. - Furthermore, the bags remain toxic even after they break down, contaminating soil, waterways, and animals upon digestion. Bans or taxes on plastic bags have occurred worldwide (South Africa, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, etc.).
- In the US several stores have begun to ban them (Whole Foods), as well as cities such as Seattle and San Francisco.

--Setup--
Tie 390 plastic bags together and string along a fence line.

--Activity--
Show guests the bags and discuss the harmful effects of plastic bags. Encourage guests to take the one bag challenge – Get your family to only produce one bag of trash/week. Show them plastic bag alternatives (re-using old plastic bags, using re-usable bags, etc).