

Plastic: Reading

What is the best summary for all these articles?

- a Plastic bags are terrible and should be banned everywhere.
- b Both paper bags and plastic bags cause problems.
- c Everybody should use paper bags and not plastic bags.



At the end of 2006 Tanzania, along with Zanzibar, joined other African nations in banning thin plastic bags. They said that the bags are an eyesore, and that they cause problems for animals and fish.	In May 2003 South Africa brought in a law to ban thin plastic bags. It said that the country was using 8 billion bags every year. So many bags are caught in trees and bushes that South Africans call them the new 'national flower'. The country wants to reduce the use of plastic bags to 4 billion.	The capital city of Bangladesh, Dhaka, banned all plastic bags in 2002. The bags clogged up drains and made flooding much worse.
In 1999, 14 million trees were cut down to produce 10 billion paper grocery bags for the US.	Each year about 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide. That is about 1 million per minute. Billions of bags end up as litter each year.	Plastic bags were first introduced in 1977 and now four out of every five bags used at grocery stores in the US are plastic.
A group of women in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa make hats, handbags and baskets out of old plastic bags. Each hat is made from about 30 plastic bags. Each month the group use about 30,000 plastic bags.	More than a billion plastic bags are given out free every day in China.	In 2001 Ireland used 1.2 billion plastic bags, about 316 per person. In 2002 the country introduced a plastic tax: the PlasTax. The use of plastic bags fell by 90% and the money raised in the first year, almost \$10 million, was used to help the environment.
In Britain only about 0.5% of plastic bags are recycled, and in the US only 1%.	Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine animals die every year from eating plastic bags. They think the bags are jellyfish.	Paper bags create 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags. They also create 70% more air pollutants.
Most plastic bags are made from polyethylene (commonly called polythene), which is made from crude oil and natural gas. Both of these are non-renewable resources.	During <i>Clean Up Australia Day</i> people collected nearly 500,000 plastic bags.	There are over 60 million tons of polyethylene produced around the world each year. It was first made in 1898 by a German chemist.
	In the US only 10 to 15% of paper bags are recycled.	