



# Can you bag it?

## Background knowledge

Polyethylene is used to make plastic food bags in factories. Some food bags are see-through, so that you can see what is inside them. Others are thicker to protect food in the freezer. Millions of plastic grocery bags are made each day, and most are thrown away after use.

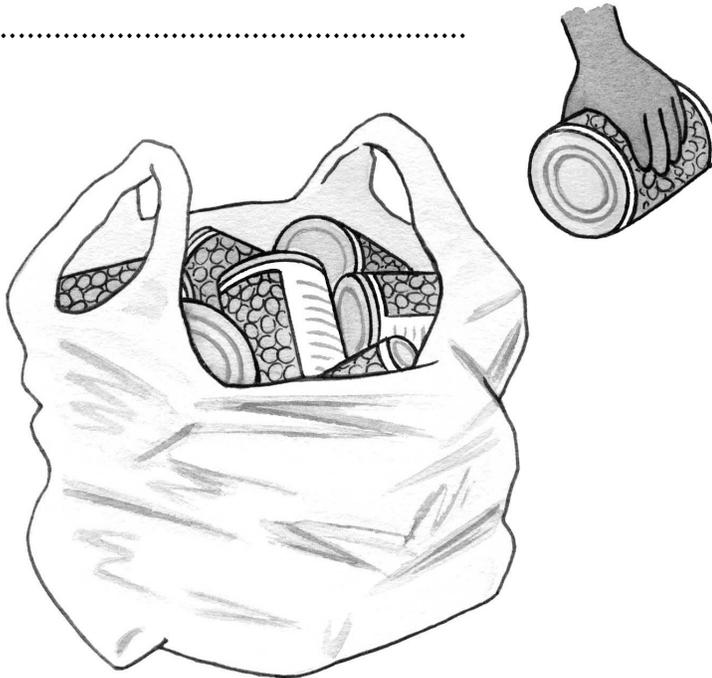
## Science activity

Before ordering new grocery bags, a supermarket manager and her staff tested different types of bags to see which one was the strongest. They carefully added cans of beans to each bag until the handles began to tear. Here are their results.

Bag	Number of cans
Type A	23
Type B	20
Type C	40
Type D	12
Type E	20

Which bag do you think they ordered for their store? Explain.

.....  
.....



## Science investigation

Is a paper bag stronger than a plastic bag? Design and conduct an experiment to answer this question. Use the Internet to see which type of bag is better for the environment.



# Can you bag it?

## Background knowledge

Polyethylene is used to make plastic food bags in factories. Some food bags are see-through, so that you can see what is inside them. Others are thicker to protect food in the freezer. Millions of plastic grocery bags are made each day, and most are thrown away after use.

## Science activity

Before ordering new grocery bags, a supermarket manager and her staff tested different types of bags to see which one was the strongest. They carefully added cans of beans to each bag until the handles began to tear. Here are their results.

Bag	Number of cans
Type A	23
Type B	20
Type C	40
Type D	12
Type E	20

Which bag do you think they ordered for their store? Explain.

*C, because it held the  
most cans of beans.*



## Science investigation

Use paper and plastic bags from retail stores or markets. The paper bags should be as close in size to the plastic bags as possible to obtain accurate results.