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The plastic invasion

Sarah: We've talked about forests, oceans, species, but we didn't even talk about the plastic pollution, which is huge and is a real threat for the environment.

W: You're right Sarah. The plastic bag has become public enemy number one, being most of the time a fatal hazard to wildlife.

Sarah: For sure, since it was introduced in the seventies, the plastic bag has become part of our lives, and most households have dozens of plastic bags stuffed into a drawer. Am I wrong?

W: not at all. The problem is that it is not known exactly how long a plastic bag lasts, and they account for less than one percent of the rubbish sent to landfill sites. It is the proof that the other ninety nine percent are ending up in litter.

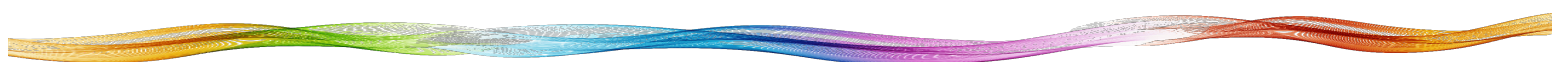
Sarah: yes, and plastic kills countless seabirds each year, and sea turtles often mistake bags for tasty jellyfish which are their main food.

W: anyway, most of the food we buy in supermarkets is over packaged. Did you know that a study carried out for an Irish supermarket chain concluded a plastic bag can last for a million years?

Sarah: No, I didn't know the life expectancy of a bag was so long. Basically it's non-biodegradable, I mean that bags do not decompose.

W: Exactly. But in more and more countries, awareness makes governments encourage people to reuse bags. Apparently it should help slashing plastic bag usage by sixty percent.

Sarah. Hopefully, but unfortunately plastic bags are nowhere near the world's worst environmental problem...





GLOSSARY:

The plastic invasion	Part of our lives
To become	Households
To introduce	Dozens
To stuff	A drawer
To last	The rubbish
To account	Landfill sites
To send/sent/sent	The proof
To end up	Litter
To kill	Countless seabirds
To mistake	The sea turtles
To buy	Tasty jellyfish
To be over packaged	Main food
To carry out	Supermarket
To conclude	A study
To decompose	Irish
To encourage	Supermarket chain
To reuse	Life expectancy
To slash	Non-biodegradable
Plastic pollution	Usage
A real threat	Nowhere near
The plastic bag	The worst environmental problem
Public enemy number one	Huge
A fatal hazard	
Wildlife	
In the seventies	



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