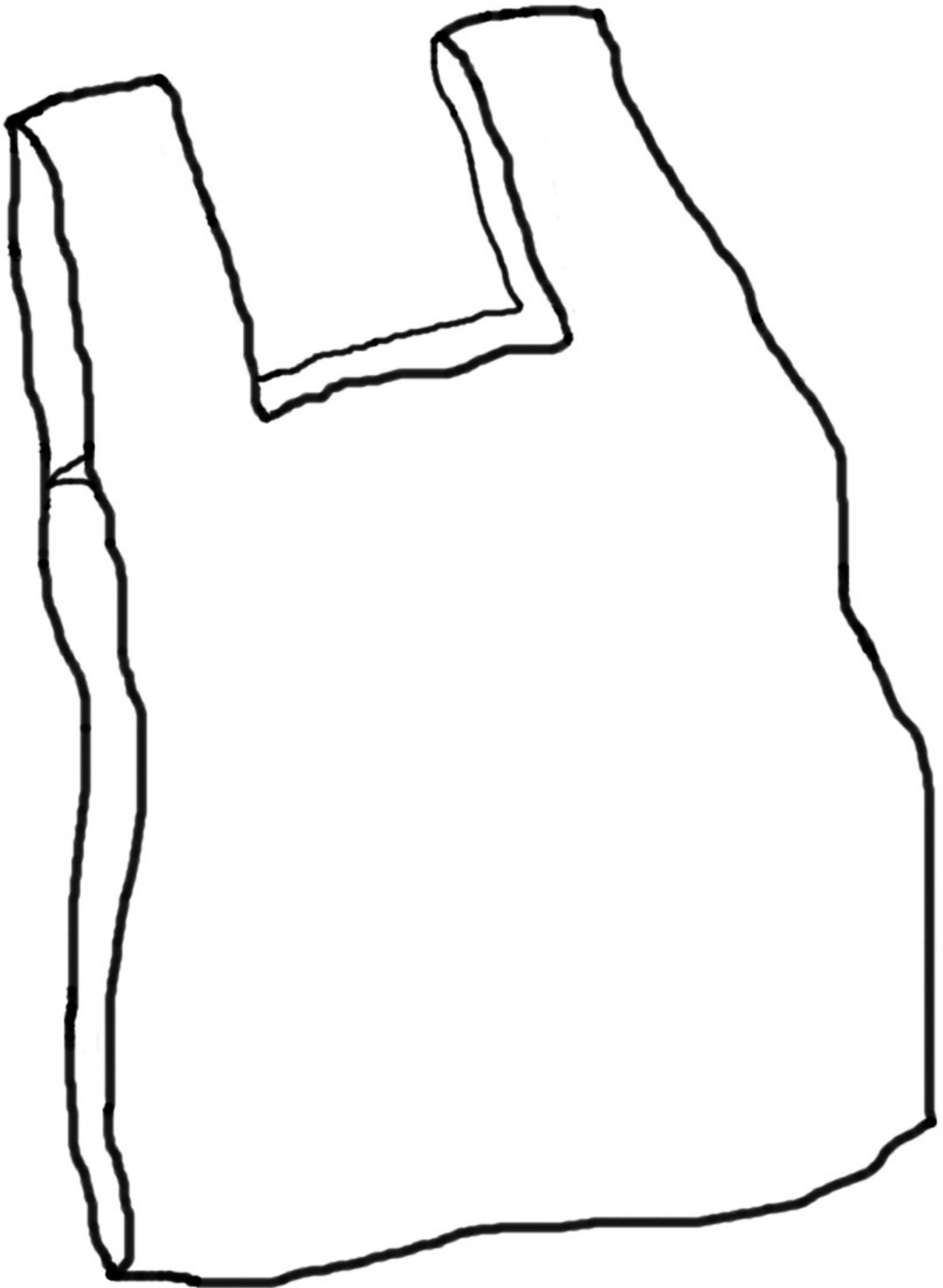


Plastic Bags - Australia's Least Wanted

Draw a picture, or write a poem, to describe how plastic bags harm the environment.



Plastic Bag Fashions

Design and make an outfit out of plastic shopping bags.

IMPORTANT : Plastic bags can be dangerous. Don't put them over your face.

MATERIALS

How many bags will you need?
What other materials will you use?

CONSTRUCTION

How will you join the bags together?

PRACTICALITY

Can it be put on and taken off easily?

DESIGN NAME

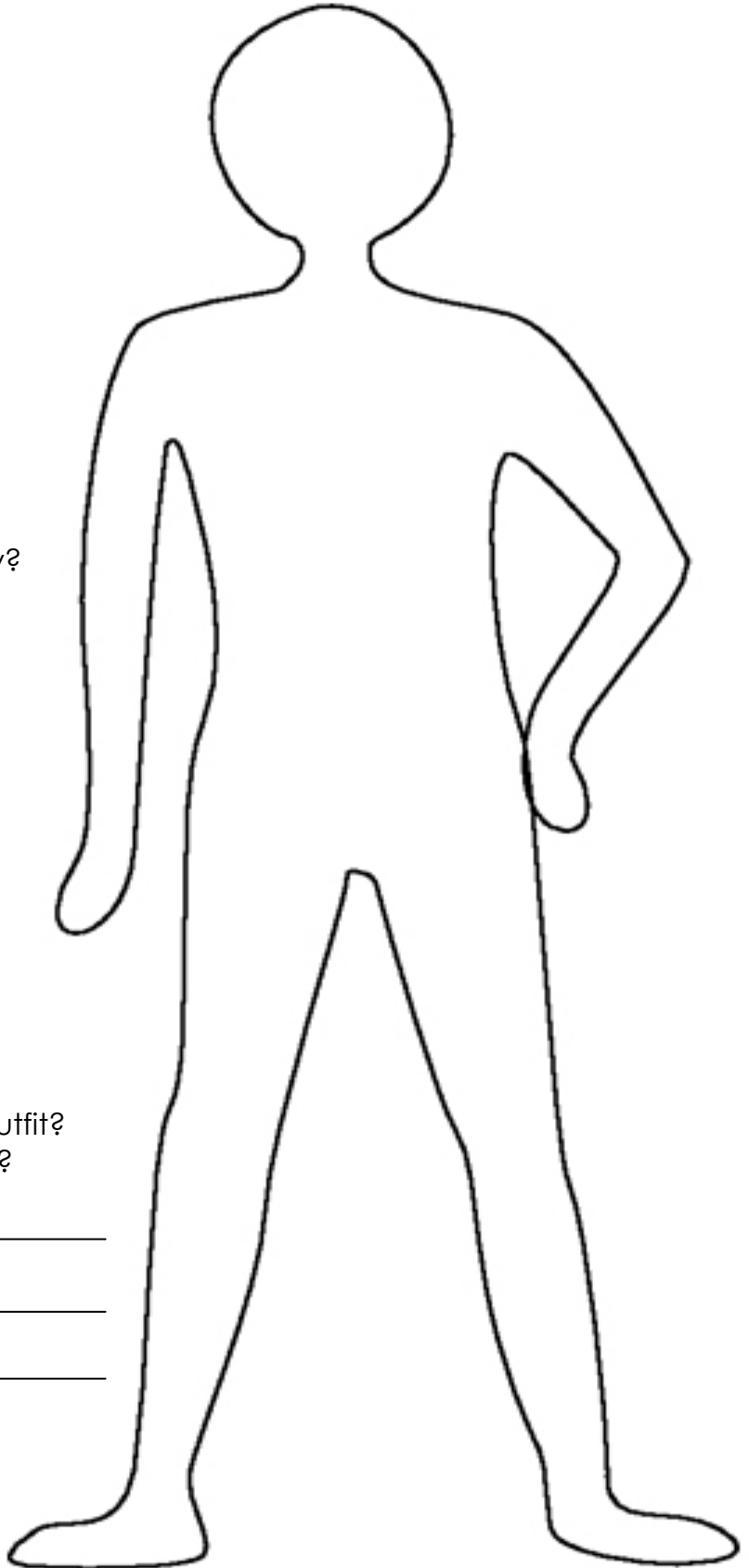
Give your creation a name.

APPLICATION

Where could you wear your outfit?

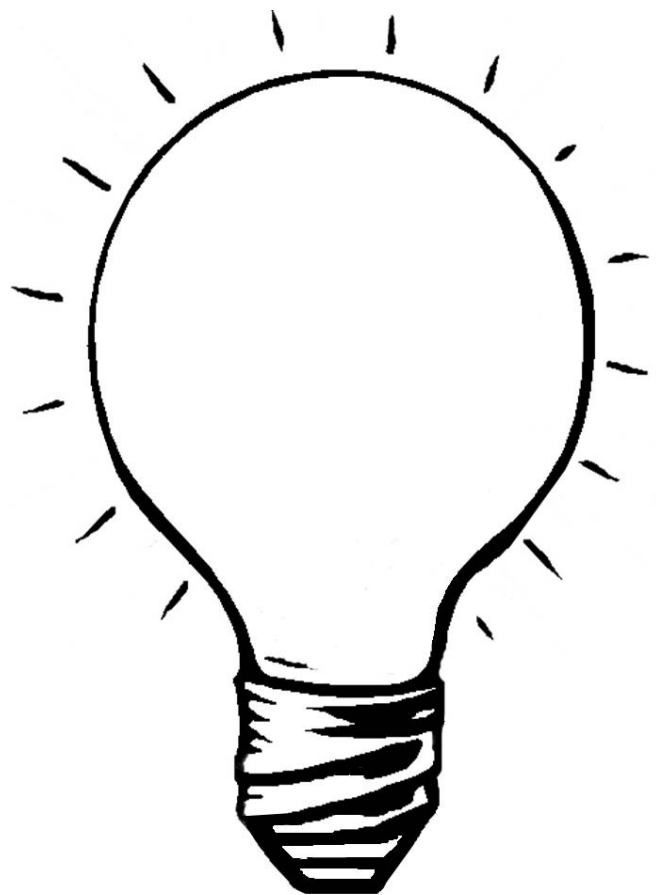
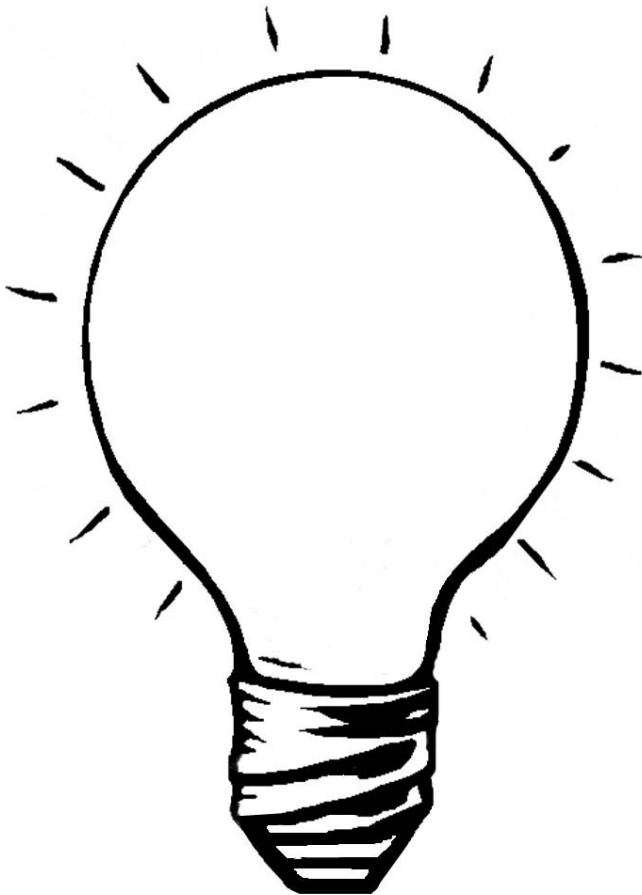
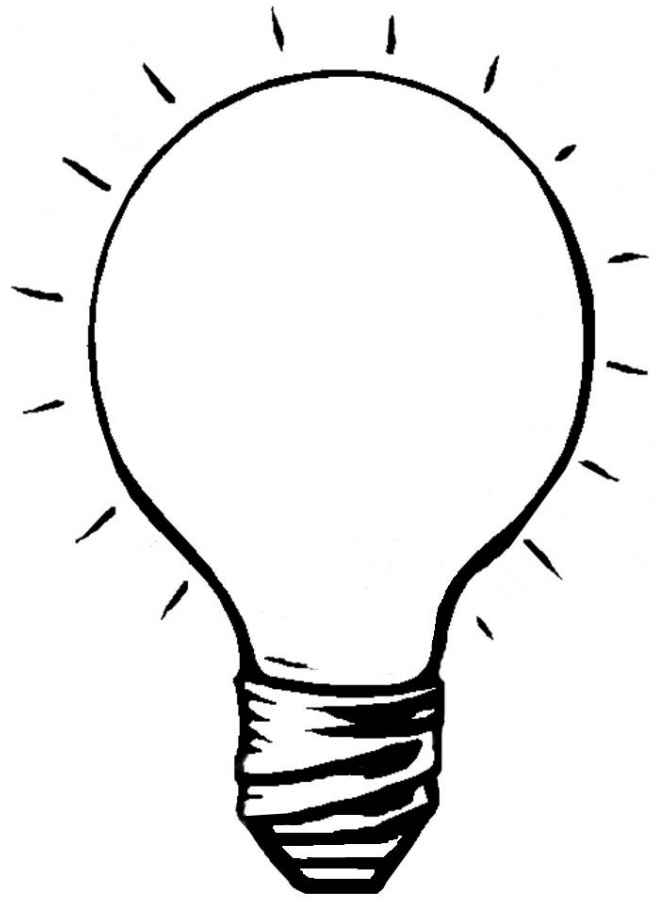
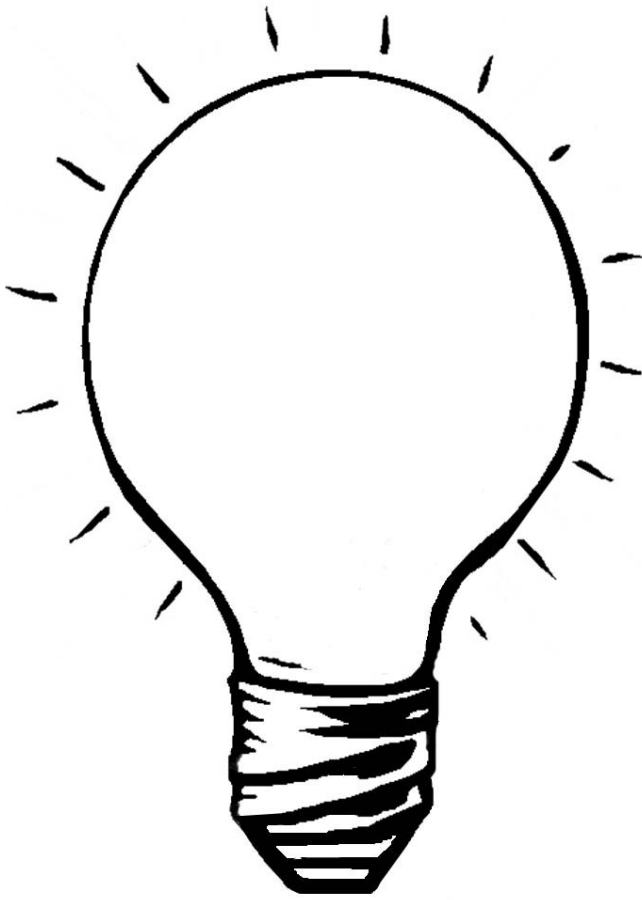
EVALUATION

What are the best features of your outfit?
How could you improve your design?



Plastic Bag Rethink

We use plastic bags for lots of things, from carrying shopping to wrapping garbage. Think of 4 ways that your family uses plastic bags, then come up with alternatives.



Plastic Bags on Land, Water & Air

Unless they are recycled, plastic shopping bags usually end up in landfills or become litter. Explore how plastic bags behave on land, water and air.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

LAND

Scientists say plastic bags can take between 10 and 1000 years to breakdown in landfill. Bio-degradable bags could be an alternative but only if they really are bio-degradable.



ACTIVITY

- **Design and conduct an experiment to test plastic bag breakdown times under different conditions.**

Use 5 or 6 different plastic bags (include some that claim to be bio-degradable)

Possible variables – buried in different types of soil, moisture (wet or dry soil / wet or dry 'Waste' material inside the bag), temperature, sunlight, oxygen

Record, graph and present your results.

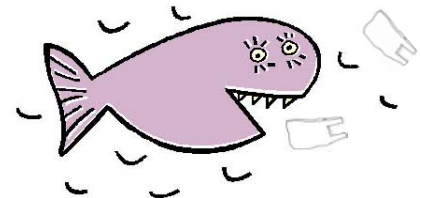
WATER

Plastic bags can clog our waterway and injure or kill sea creatures. The main threat to marine life is swallowing or becoming entangled by plastic bags.

ACTIVITY

- **Create a mural (collage with re-used materials) or short play (for school assembly) to demonstrate the impact of plastic bag litter on marine life. You can include dolphins, whales, seal, turtles, small fish and birds.**

NOTE: Although plastic bags are a choking hazard, sea creatures such as whales and dolphins swallow them whole (thinking they are jellyfish). Plastic lines their stomach, making it difficult for them to digest food.

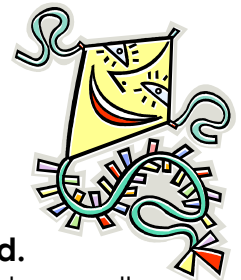


AIR

Plastic bags are thin and lightweight, which is why they are easily blown out of rubbish bins and landfill sites. Have you ever seen a plastic bag stuck in a tree?

ACTIVITY

- **Design and create a kite using plastic shopping bags. You could use a group of kites (or a large box kite) to display a 'Better Bag – Better Environment' message.**
- **Make a plastic bag windsock in the shape of a fish, jellyfish or sea bird.**



Cut a small hole (for a mouth) in the bottom of a bag and tape around a small ring. (The inside of a roll of sticky tape is ideal). Cut the bag handles to make a tail and gather the bag in the middle, so that some wind can be trapped inside.

Decorate with streamers made from different coloured plastic bags or use the silver bladder from a water or wine cask for a sparkly effect.

