One Plastic Bag Bracelet

Materials: scissors, tape, several plastic bags per student

Background Information: In the book, One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia tells the inspiring story of five women who creatively dealt with their village’s plastic trash problem. Despite limited resources and ridicule, Isatou and her friends persevered for more than a decade, eventually realizing economic empowerment through their recycled plastic purse project. The book also includes bonus information such as a Wolof language glossary, timeline of actual events, and photos of the women of Njau. (http://oneplasticbag.com/explore-the-book/)

STEM Career Connection: An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, services, and business/or procedures. A conservationist is a person who dedicates a substantial portion of their time and/or resources to conserving biodiversity, single species, or habitats anywhere in the world.

Literature Connections: One Plastic Bag by Miranda Paul

Challenge:
1. Gather materials.
2. Show the plastic bags and explain that we can change the trash into something useful. Demonstrate how to cut the bags into strips and begin the process of creating a bracelet.
3. Allow students to work on their own or in pairs to create their own bracelet. Students can braid, twist, or roll the plastic bags to create their own unique bracelet.