

1077-O1-2597 **Ron Taylor*** (rtaylor@berry.edu), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Berry College, Mount Berry, GA 30149, and **Todd Timberlake** (ttimberlake@berry.edu), Department of Physics, Astronomy & Geology, Berry College, Mount Berry, GA 30149. *Tearing Plastic: A laboratory exercise on fractals and hyperbolic geometry.*

We describe a hands-on activity for a liberal arts mathematics course that focuses on the beauty and unity of mathematics. The purpose of the activity is to tie together several topics in the context of a real-world situation – that of a torn plastic bag. These topics include: fractals, non-Euclidean geometry, symmetry, and Platonic solids. (Received September 22, 2011)