

OIL TO PLASTIC



WHERE
MATERIALS
COME FROM

ROBIN
JOHNSON



Crabtree
Seedlings

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Do you play with plastic toys?
Plastic is a material used in many things. We use these things every day. But what is plastic? Where does it come from?

What Is Plastic?

Plastic is a material made by people.
It can be formed into almost any shape.
Plastic is useful because it is strong,
lightweight, and lasts for a long time.

plastic beads

molded plastic bottles

We use many plastic items each day.
Toothbrushes, pens, milk jugs, eyeglasses,
and bike helmets are all made of plastic.



PLASTIC FACT

There are many kinds
of plastic. Some are
hard and tough. Others
are soft and stretchy.

From Fossil Fuels

Most plastic is made from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels formed in the earth over millions of years. These resources cannot be replaced once they are used up.

open pit
coal mine

Crude oil, natural gas, and coal are types of fossil fuels. They can all be used to make plastic. In this book, you will learn how plastic is made from crude oil.



PLASTIC FACT

Some newer plastics are made from corn, potatoes, and other plants.

Finding Oil

Crude oil is found deep beneath the ground and ocean floor. It collects in areas of rock called reservoirs. These rocks have billions of tiny holes or larger bowl-shaped spaces that hold oil.



PLASTIC FACT

Crude oil sometimes rises to the surface. This is called an oil seep.



Scientists try to predict where oil is located.
They study rocks above and below the surface.
They make maps and do many tests.

