**Making Plastic**

**Key Stage Two**

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| Crude oil is mined from deep underground, often from below the sea. |
| The crude oil separated, or distilled, into different parts according to what it will be used for. Some will be used for heating fuel, motor fuel or to make chemicals. Some of the oil, called petroleum, is used to make plastic. |
| The petroleum is broken down into tiny parts called monomers. |
| Chemicals are added to the monomers to join them together into long strings called polymers. These polymers can be used to make plastic pellets. |
| A lot of water is used in the production of plastic. |
| Plastic pellets can be formed into a range of objects by being heated, extruded (stretched) and moulded into different shapes. |
| Approximately 13 billion plastic bottles are used each year in the UK. Only 7.5 billion are recycled. What a waste of oil and other resources like water! |