

IS THERE A DINOSAUR IN YOUR PENCIL CASE?

Most of the world's plastics are made from crude oil which, in turn, was made from the remains of plants and animals that lived 65 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. The remains were buried, and geological pressure has since turned them into thick black oil. Plastics such as acrylic, PVC (polyvinyl chloride), PET, polyester, polyurethane, acetate and nylon are all made from oil. They can be spun and moulded in many ways so they are incredibly useful.

1. Make a list of all the items in your immediate surroundings that are made from oil.

2. Plastics are currently both very useful and very cheap to make. What will happen as the world's oil supplies become scarcer?

3. Petrol and diesel are also made from crude oil. That's why they're called fossil fuels. Do you think we should to burn as much of these fuels as we do? Why or why not?
