



Oil - Where does oil come from?

Fact

- Oil is a fossil fuel which means it comes from fossils.
- The fossils that oil comes from started off as tiny sea creatures called plankton (millions and trillions of plankton) and bits of dead plant matter that got washed out to sea
- As the plankton died and the plant matter sank to the bottom of the sea they formed a layer and combined with minerals like sand to make a soft layer of rock.
- Very slowly over millions of years the layer changed into oil
- The oil collected in pools in the layers of rock called reservoirs

Do you know

- Geologists (scientists that study rocks) have the job of finding oil reservoirs.
- A lot of the world's oil is found in rock deep under the rock layer at the bottom of the ocean.
- Some of the world's oil is found deep under the rock on land. This land would have once been the floor of an ancient ocean.
- Oil rigs have gigantic drills that bore down through the rock to reach the oil reservoir. Then the oil is pumped out into huge tanks.
- Oil straight from the ground is called Crude Oil. It's used to make things like petrol, diesel and aviation fuel (fuel for planes)

Experiments you can do

Ask an adult if you can have a look at some oil. It might be oil for a car or for a sewing machine or for putting on to squeaky door hinges.

It is a product that has been made from thick black crude oil. It has been cleaned and boiled and maybe had things added to it so that it looks cleaner and is runnier than the oil it started as.

Use some oil to make two pieces of metal slide over each other.

Gently and slowly rub the pieces of metal together without any oil. Add a drop of oil and rub the pieces of metal together again. Do you notice any difference? The oil acts as a lubricant and makes the metal slippery so that they move together more smoothly

Other Investigations

Have a look at some cooking oil. Oil for cooking is made from food products like seeds or vegetables. Cooking oil is normally much lighter in colour but it makes things slippery too. Rub your pointing finger and thumb together and take note of what it feels like. Put a drop of oil on your finger and rub it against your thumb again. How does the oil change how it feels? The cooking oil is acting as a lubricant too.

Jokes

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Pasta

Pasta who?

Pass da oil I'm squeaky