

Springboard^{into} Comprehension

Identifying Detail The Prince and the Lion

Main Idea Storm Chaser

Sequencing The Long Life of Plastic

Compare and Contrast Dinosaurs – Big Brains, Little Brains

Fact and Opinion Hot Potatoes

Cause and Effect The Rooftop Gardener



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The Long Life of Plastic



Written by Nadja Fisher

The Long Life of Plastic

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Introduction

People use plastic all the time. When they begin the day, they may drink milk from plastic bottles. They listen to radios made of plastic. They clean their teeth with plastic toothbrushes.

When people buy food, it is often wrapped in plastic. They put their shopping in plastic bags. They ride home in cars that have many plastic parts. Where does all this plastic come from?



Because plastic is tough, people can make many useful products from it.

Plastic from Oil

First, people turn oil into plastic. Next, they mix in things to change the plastic, called **additives**. The dyes that give plastic its colour are additives. Then, people cut the plastic into small pieces, or **pellets**.



Plastic pellets made from oil

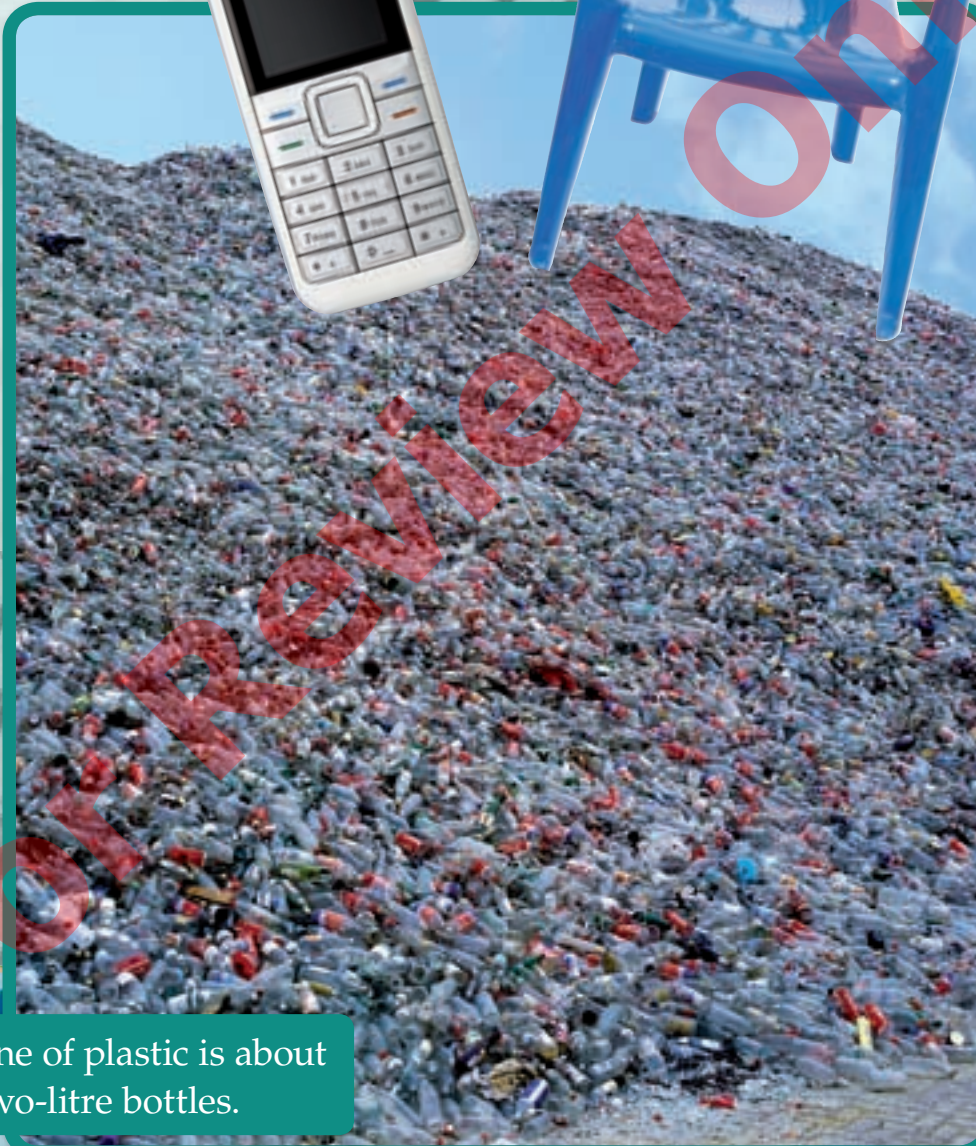
After that, the pellets go through a machine. It uses pressure and heat to shape them. The machine is called an **extruder**. It warms the plastic. Finally, it pushes it into a shape that people can use to make products.



This extruder shapes plastic pellets into sunroofs.

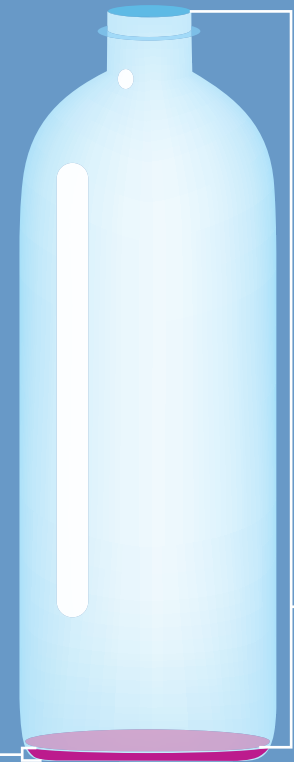
Next, people buy the products. They use them in their daily lives. People use many products made from plastic, such as bags, phone covers, and furniture.

Around the world, people use about 100 million tonnes of plastic each year. Australians use over 1.5 million tonnes of plastic each year.



One tonne of plastic is about 20,000 two-litre bottles.

Plastic Use



Australia –
1.5 million tonnes
per year

World –
100 million tonnes
per year