

What is Plastic Made From?

Student quiz—*Answer key*

1. Polymerization is...
 - a. A chemical reaction in which long chains called polymers break apart into individual molecules called monomers.
 - b. A chemical reaction in which individual molecules called monomers join together to form long chains called polymers.
 - c. A scientific term for the industrial production of milk.
 - d. The conversion of petroleum into gasoline.
2. What happens when you add vinegar to milk and stir?
 - a. The milk changes color.
 - b. Gas bubbles are formed.
 - c. Nothing happens—the milk remains unchanged.
 - d. The milk turns into a solid called curd.
3. Which ingredient in milk is responsible for its transformation into a plastic?
 - a. Milk fats
 - b. Water
 - c. Casein proteins
 - d. Lactose (milk sugar)
4. Which natural resource is most often used to make synthetic plastic materials?
 - a. Oil
 - b. Milk
 - c. Water
 - d. Gold
5. What are some potential consequences of the widespread use of plastic materials?
 - a. Depletion of natural resources such as petroleum and oil.
 - b. Pollution of the environment due the buildup of non-degradable plastic waste.
 - c. Negative health effects due to long-term exposure to potentially harmful chemicals used to make plastic.
 - d. All of the above