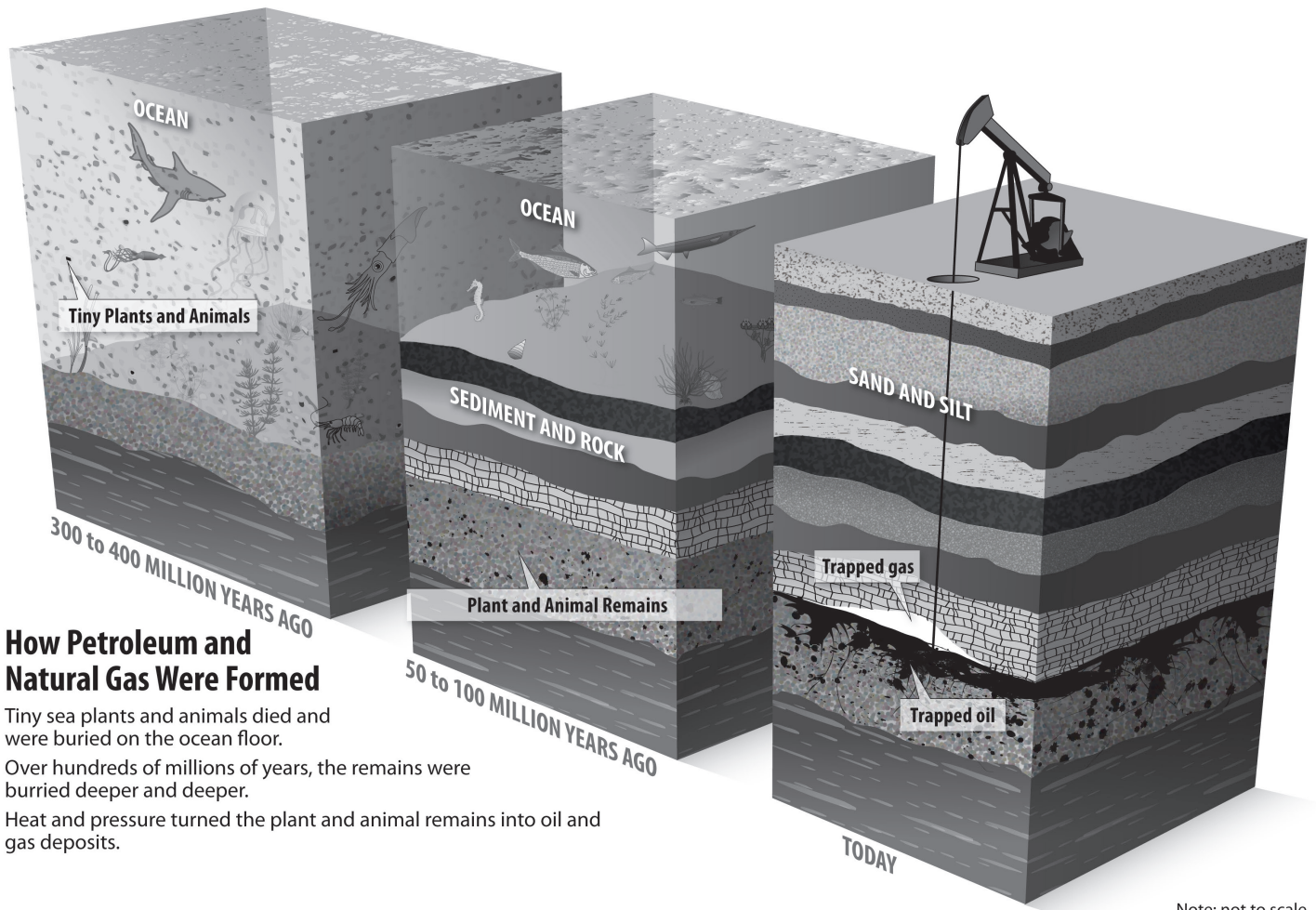


Petroleum



How Petroleum and Natural Gas Were Formed

Tiny sea plants and animals died and were buried on the ocean floor.

Over hundreds of millions of years, the remains were buried deeper and deeper.

Heat and pressure turned the plant and animal remains into oil and gas deposits.

Petroleum is a liquid we find underground. Petroleum is nonrenewable.



Petroleum

TEACHER

Petroleum is a liquid that is found underground. Sometimes we just call it oil or crude oil. Oil can be as thick and black as tar or as thin as water. Petroleum has a lot of energy. We can turn it into different fuels—like gasoline, kerosene, and heating oil. Most plastics are made from petroleum, too.

People have burned oil for a long time. Long ago, they did not dig for it. They gathered oil that seeped from under the ground into ponds. It floated on the water.

Long before the dinosaurs, oceans covered most of the Earth. They were filled with tiny sea animals and plants. As the plants and animals died, they sank to the ocean floor. Sand covered them. Hundreds of millions of years passed. The weight of the sand and water and heat from the Earth turned them into petroleum and natural gas.

Petroleum is called a **fossil fuel** because it was made from plants and animals. The energy in petroleum came from the energy in the plants and animals that were once living and buried. That energy came from the sun.

The petroleum we use today was made a very long time ago. It took hundreds of millions of years to form. We cannot make more in a short time. That is why we call petroleum **nonrenewable**. The United States does not drill enough oil to meet our needs. We buy 51 percent of the oil we use from other countries.

Petroleum is buried underground in tiny pockets in rocks. We drill **oil wells** into the rocks to pump out the oil. A normal well is over one mile deep. Texas is the state that drills the most oil. A lot of oil is under the oceans and along our shores. Offshore oil rigs are used to reach this oil. Most of these wells are in the Gulf of Mexico.

After the oil is drilled, it is sent to **refineries**. At the refineries, it is cleaned and made into different fuels. Most of the oil is made into **gasoline** for vehicles. The oil is moved from one place to another by ships and trucks, and through pipelines.

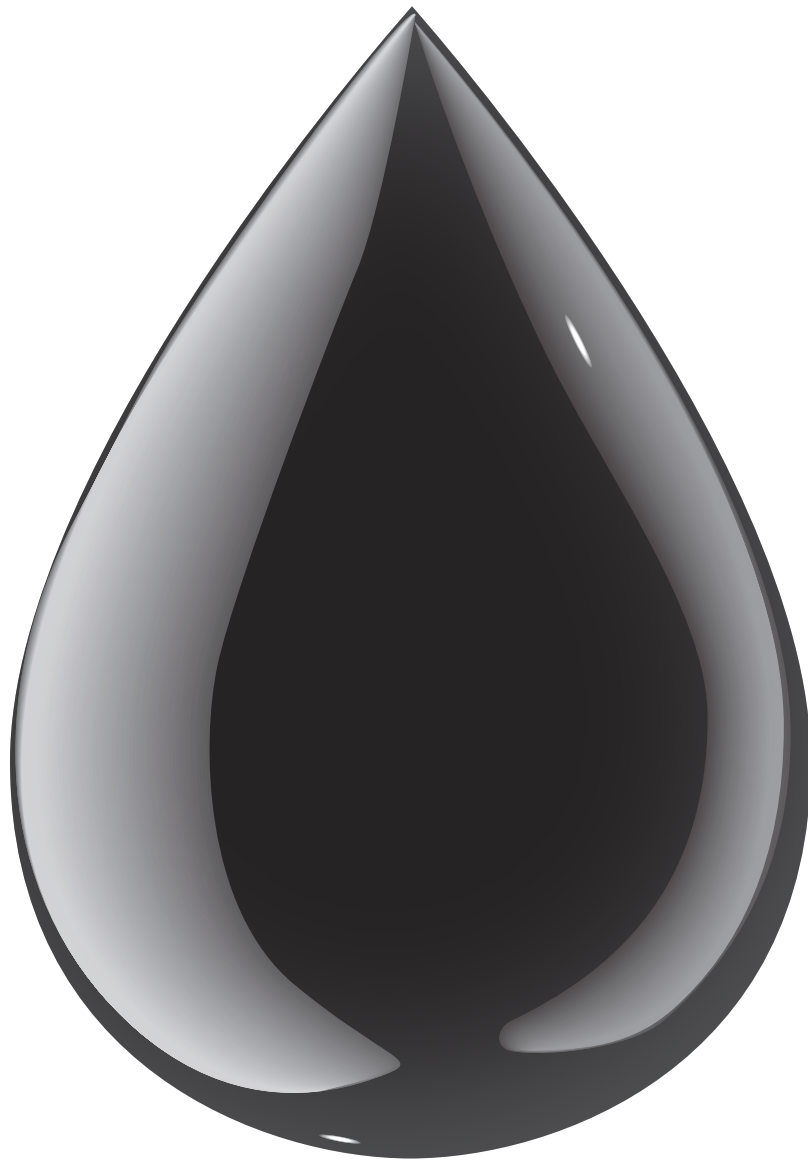
What would we do without petroleum? Right now, our country would come to a stop! Our cars, trucks, and planes all use fuel made from oil. Our factories use oil to make plastics and paints, medicines and soaps. We sometimes even burn oil to make electricity. We use more petroleum than any other energy source.

Petroleum keeps us going, but it can damage our environment. Burning oil can pollute the air. Pollution from cars is a big problem in many parts of the country. Oil companies are making cleaner gasoline and other fuels every year. Oil can also pollute the soil and water if it is spilled. Oil companies work hard to drill and ship oil as safely as possible. They try hard to clean up any oil that spills.

ENERGY CHANT

Pump, pump— PETROLEUM!

Place hands together in fists in front of you. During “Pump, pump,” partially extend fingers twice and return to fist. During “PETROLEUM,” fully extend hands and move them upward, representing oil shooting from a well.



Petroleum is also called oil.
It is a liquid when it comes from
the ground.



An oil rig on land.



An oil rig on water.

We drill to get the oil from the ground. Some wells are on land and some are below water.



A tanker ship transports oil across the ocean.

We move oil in big ships called tankers. We also move oil in pipes under the ground.



Lipstick



Action figures



Rubber bands



Tape



CDs



Pens

We use oil to make many different products.