

Polymer Basics

Name: _____

Visit the Chemistry page of the Kid Zone at <http://sciencespot.net/> by selecting "Matter & Atoms" to find the links for this assignment.

Find the link for "Plastics 101." Choose "The Basics: Polymer Definition and Properties." Read the information on this page to help you complete each statement.

A. Plastics are _____, which are made of many _____ similar to a chain.

Each link in the chain is a basic unit usually made out of _____, or to make the chain, many links or units are hooked or _____ together.

B. Many common classes of polymers are composed of _____, which contain carbon and hydrogen. Name four elements that are also found in polymers.

C. What is the difference between thermoplastics and thermosets?

D. What are the general attributes of polymers?

- Polymers can be very resistant to _____
- Polymers can be both _____ and _____ insulators .
- Polymers are very light in _____ with varying degrees of _____
- Polymers can be _____ in various ways to produce thin fibers or very intricate parts.
- Polymers are materials with a seemingly _____ range of characteristics and colors.
- Polymers are usually made of _____, but not always.
- Polymers can be used to make items that have no _____ from other materials.

Use the Back button to return to the Plastics 101 main page. Choose "Lifecycle of a Plastic Product" and then select "7 Major Plastics." For each type of plastic, give its major characteristics and list its uses below.

Type of Plastic:	Characteristics:	Uses:
PETE		
HDPE		
PVC		
LDPE		
PP		
PS		

Kids' Macrogalleria

Scroll down this page to find the link for "Where are Polymers?" Visit three stores and find three items that are made of polymers. Make a list of the three items you find in each store and the polymers that are used for each.