

# What on Earth is in a Crayon?

## Where on Earth do Crayons Come From?



Petroleum is an important fossil fuel located below the earth's surface. It is formed by the breakdown of dead plants and animals over millions of years that are exposed to a large amount of heat and pressure. Petroleum is removed by drilling through deep layers of rocks. It is a heavy, black mud-like natural mixture that is mainly made up of solid, liquid and gas hydrocarbons.



**PETRA + OLEUM = PETROLEUM**

↓                      ↓                      ↓

**Rock                      Oil                      Oil that comes from rocks in the Earth**



**+**                      **=**



**Did you know that crayons are essentially sticks of coloured paraffin wax?**

Petroleum is processed into beneficial products in an industrial plant referred to as a petroleum refinery. These include products such as gasoline, heating oils and surprisingly paraffin wax which is a main ingredient in crayons.

Crayons are comprised of petroleum refined paraffin wax, colour pigment and other chemical materials.



Canada is one of the largest producers of petroleum in the world. Other large producers include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Russia and China. Most of the petroleum production in Canada is in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Canada also imports a large amount of petroleum as many of the refineries cannot process the oil that is produced.

Petroleum is the most critical source of fuel in the world, and it is in limited supply. Once it is used it cannot be restored, and we need to remember it is a valuable non-renewable resource. People are using petroleum at a faster rate than it is being produced, where it could potentially run out.



Thousands of broken crayons are unfortunately being put into our landfills as they are not recyclable. Instead of throwing away your used crayons into the garbage, you can donate them. For more information on this great cause visit:

<https://thecrayoninitiative.org/>



## References

- Chen, J. (2020, August 29). Petroleum. Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/petroleum.asp>
- Nargi, L. (2020, August 13). 9 Items You Didn't Know You Could Recycle. Retrieved December 12, 2020, from <https://www.readersdigest.ca/home-garden/tips/items-you-didnt-know-you-could-recycle-or-upcycle/>
- Oil refinery facts for kids. (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2020, from [https://kids.kiddle.co/Oil\\_refinery](https://kids.kiddle.co/Oil_refinery)
- Oil Supply and Demand. (2019, December 16). Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/clean-fossil-fuels/oil-supply-demand/18086>
- Petroleum facts for kids. (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://kids.kiddle.co/Petroleum>
- Reinhard, C. (2013, October 22). Petroleum Products: Crayons. Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://sanangelolive.com/news/national/2013-10-22/petroleum-products-crayons>
- What is Petroleum How it is formed - Concepts. (2020, May 22). Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://www.teachoo.com/9907/2987/Petroleum/category/Concepts/>
- Where do the raw materials for crayons come from? (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2020, from <https://www.crayola.com/faq/your-business/where-do-the-raw-materials-for-crayons-come-from/>