

ANKA SCHWELGIN

THE RECYCLO- SAURUS



Matti was the biggest dinosaur fan of all time.

He had a huge collection of dinosaur figures. As often as possible, he visited the exhibition on dinosaurs at the museum of natural history. And every evening he looked at books about dinosaurs. He would lie in his dinosaur bed and snuggle up in his dinosaur bed linen.



Matti would have given anything to see a real dinosaur one day.

But his parents had explained to him that dinosaurs had been extinct for 66 million years.





It's a good thing that parents are not always right ...

What do dinosaurs have to do with plastic?

To make plastic, you need a substance that was created long before our time: crude oil. This oil comes from an age when there were no humans on earth. Back then, dinosaurs ruled our planet.



Tiny dead animals and plants sank to the bottom of the sea. Mixed with sand and clay, they formed the crude oil bedrock. New layers were constantly created. Due to the high pressure and heat in the depths of the sea, the oil gradually separated from the rock.

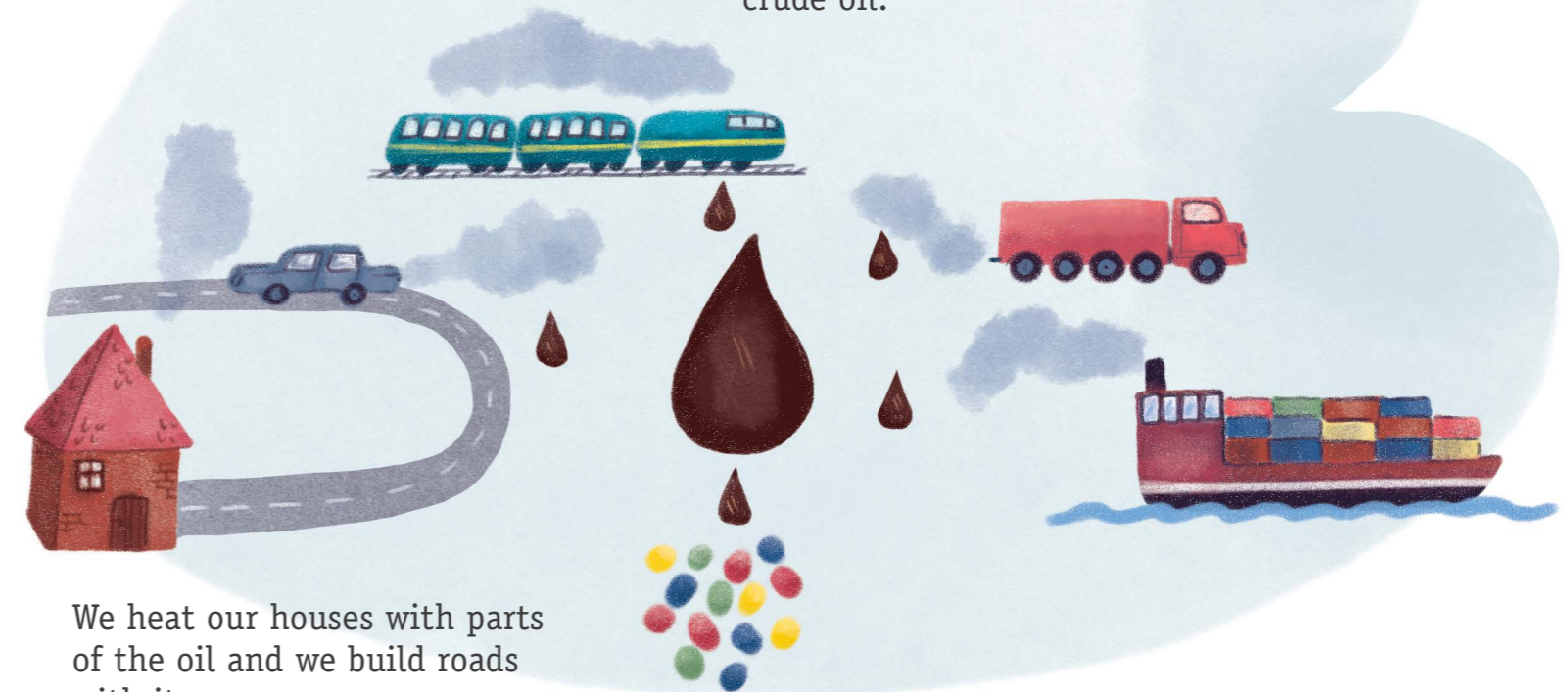


We use drilling rigs to extract the oil from deep in the earth, because in the course of time people discovered that an incredible amount of different things can be made from crude oil.



In its natural form, crude oil is almost useless to us. But in huge factories it is divided into its individual components. And these components are used for very different things.

For example, cars, lorries and buses, even diesel locomotives and ships run on fuels extracted from crude oil.



We heat our houses with parts of the oil and we build roads with it.

Plastic can also be made from crude oil. Plastic is a substance that does not exist in nature. It is incredibly durable and you can use it to produce all kinds of things. Synthetic material, or plastic, as we call it, nowadays plays a huge role in our everyday lives.



You can find it, for example, in packaging, computers, toys, clothing, shoes, crockery and many many other things we use every single day.



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