



Credit: Corbis

# Waterproof picture

Oil is not just a valuable energy source. This activity explores the many everyday objects that are made from oil. It shows that oil and water do not mix and uses their different properties to create a picture.

## You will need

- Paper
- Watercolour paint
- Wax crayons
- Water
- Brushes

## Steps

1

Talk about all the things that are made of oil. Many plastics are made from oil, so identify things in the classroom that are made from oil. Wax crayons are made from oil.

2

Create an image using wax crayons on paper. Do not cover the whole of the paper – leave some spaces. Try drawing places where you would find water, such as the ocean, a river or a scene with rain or clouds. Try drawing things that are made from oil or a picture of oil.

3

Take a paintbrush and paint over the wax image with a watery, watercolour paint.

4

Observe how the watercolour paint runs off the wax areas but sinks into the other parts of the paper – parts of your picture are 'waterproof'.

## Analysis/ discussion

**Oil and water do not mix and wax crayons contain oil. What other things contain oil? Make a list of things around the classroom that you think contain oil. (Clues: Look for things made of plastic or synthetic rubber. Are the soles of your shoes made of rubber?)**

**A variation on this activity is to use a white crayon or candle on white paper to write secret messages. The message you write could be linked to energy. The message is almost impossible to read on the paper, but if the paper is then painted all-over with pale watercolour paint, the message will magically appear!**