

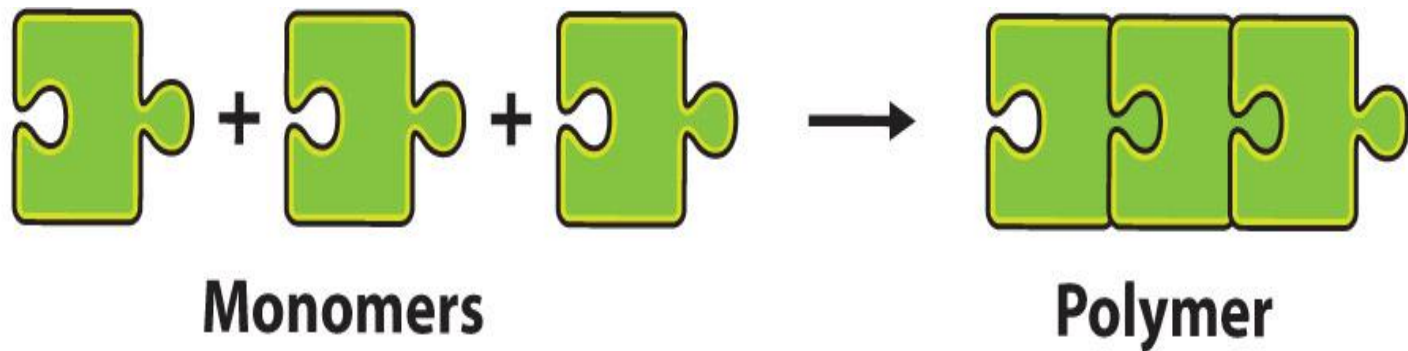


Plastics

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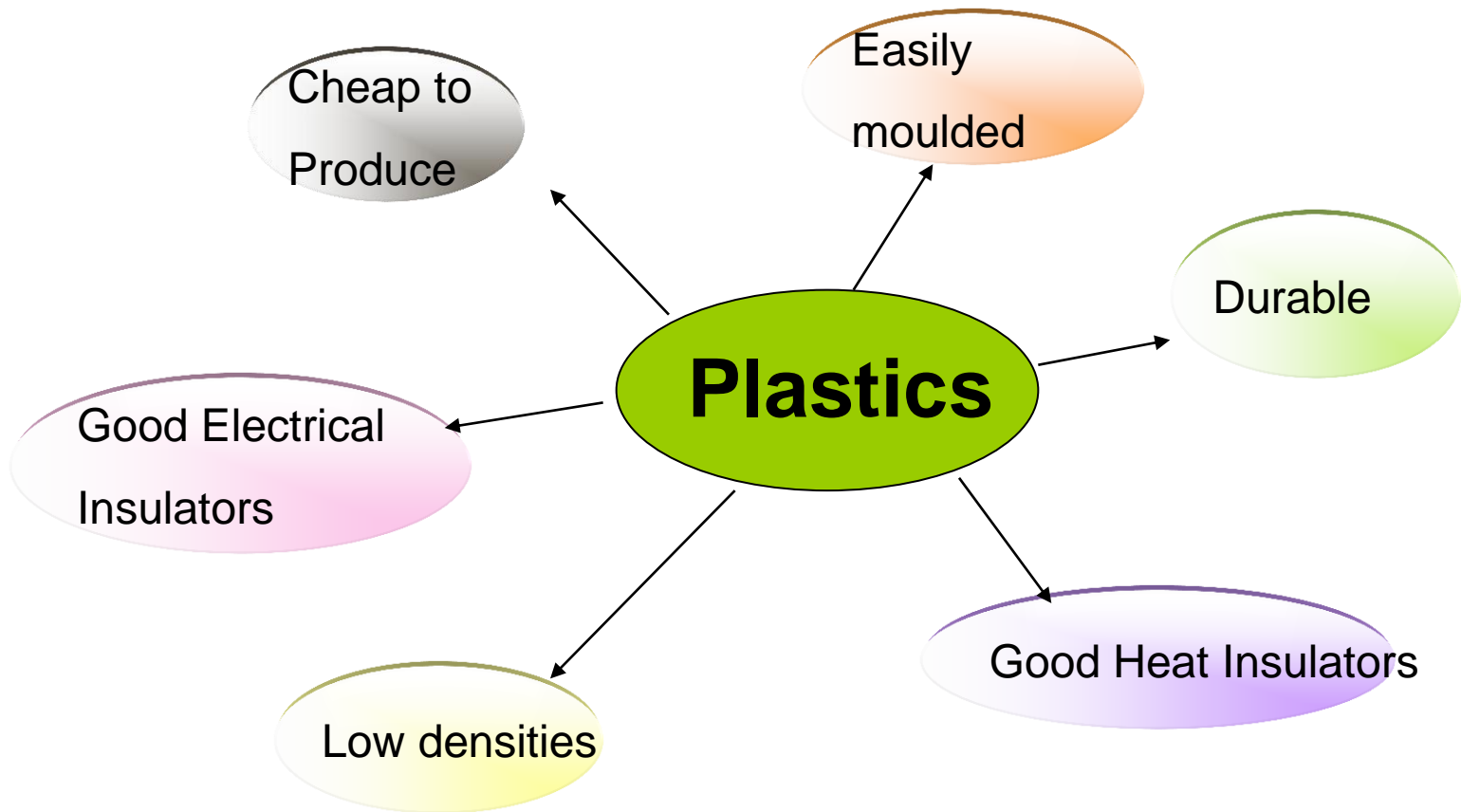
- All plastics are made from crude oil (petroleum based)
- Crude oil is a thick black liquid

Plastics are polymers made up of repeating units called monomers



▲ Fig 30.3 A model of polymerisation

Properties of plastics





Polythene



Polystyrene



PVC



Polypropene



Nylon



Melamine



Phenolic resins

Biodegradable Plastics

- Modern plastics are mixed with starch (Bio-plastics)
- The starch absorbs water, expands and causes the plastic to break up into tiny pieces
- Bacteria then break down the tiny pieces of plastic into the soil

Non – Biodegradable

- Non-Biodegradable means the plastic doesn't break down easily
- This causes pollution