

Sponsored by BP

Key word:
Petrol
Age range:
14
Ability:
Mixed
Lesson Time:
2 x 70 minutes
NC links:
Cost:
£6.00
Source:
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This unit investigates the physical properties of paraffin and petrol (the students actually look at acceptable substitutes).

Using an imaginary oil company 'Refino' and their need to transport liquids through a pipeline the students are introduced to the topic.

The unit begins with a demonstration of a model pipeline and the need to transport more than one chemical along it. The first activity involves comparing the physical properties of 2 oil products - this is followed by designing a detector using this knowledge.

Finally pupils present their work (through role-play) to the Refino company.

Because substitutes are used it encourages practical chemistry in an area of the syllabus that has become very theoretical. Properties of liquids, density and viscosity are not easily understood at KS3. Hydrocarbon molecules and other issues to do with the petrochemical industry are introduced for the more advanced students.

#### TOPIC BOX

- discussion of pipelines
- investigating the physical properties of petrol and paraffin
- designing a detector for the 2 oil products
- presentation of work

