

Keywords

Monomer	Small reactive molecules that react together to form large molecules
Polymer	Large molecules made up from repeating chains of monomers
Polymerisation	The process of making polymers
Condensation polymerisation	During the polymerisation process water or other molecules are formed
Saccharide	A sugar monomer unit
Polypeptide	Organic polymer consisting of a large number of amino-acid monomers bonded together in a chain
Nucleotide	A compound consisting of a nucleoside linked to a phosphate group. Nucleotides form the basic structural unit of nucleic acids such as DNA

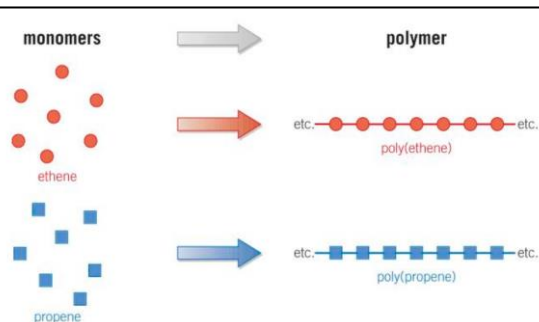
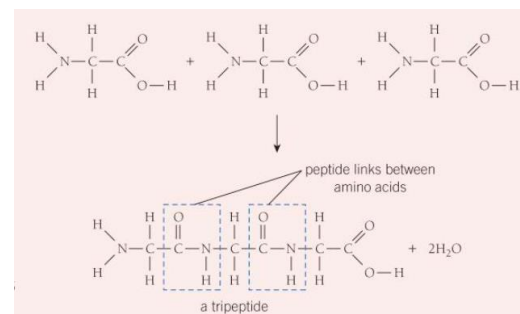
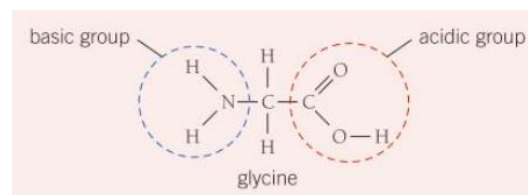
1. Addition polymerisation

When alkene molecules join together, the double covalent bond between two carbon atoms opens up and forms a single carbon-carbon bond with another molecule. Thousands of molecules join together end to end and form a large molecule called a polymer.

When thousands of small monomers join together to form one large molecule and nothing else This kind of reaction is known as addition polymerisation.

2. Condensation polymerisation

When amino acids react they form peptide links within proteins. As the basic NH_2 groups react with the acidic COOH group. Water is also released. This is known as condensation polymerisation.



C11 Polymers - Triple

3. DNA

DNA is made of two polymer strands held together by intermolecular forces. Each strand is made of thousands of monomers called nucleotides. There are 4 types of nucleotide (GCAT). The nucleotides pair up so that G always pairs with C and A always pairs with T.

