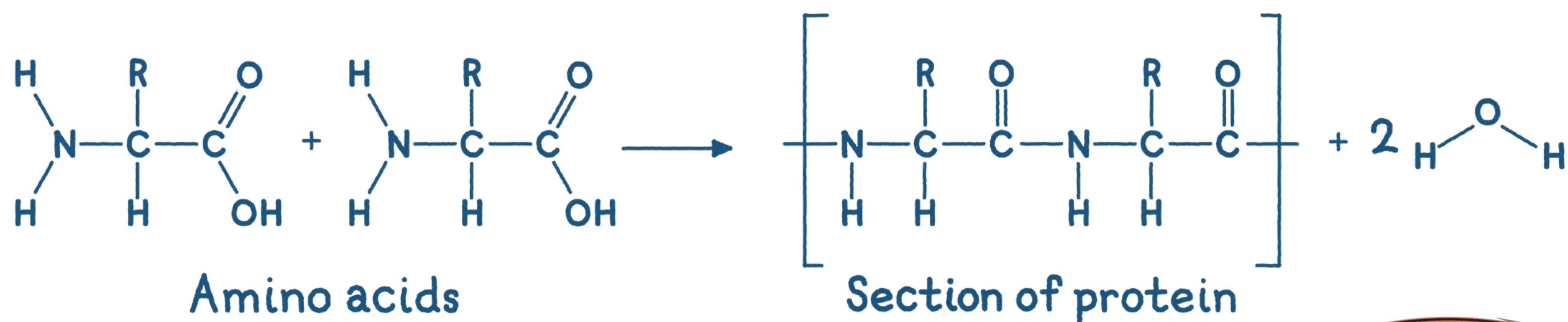


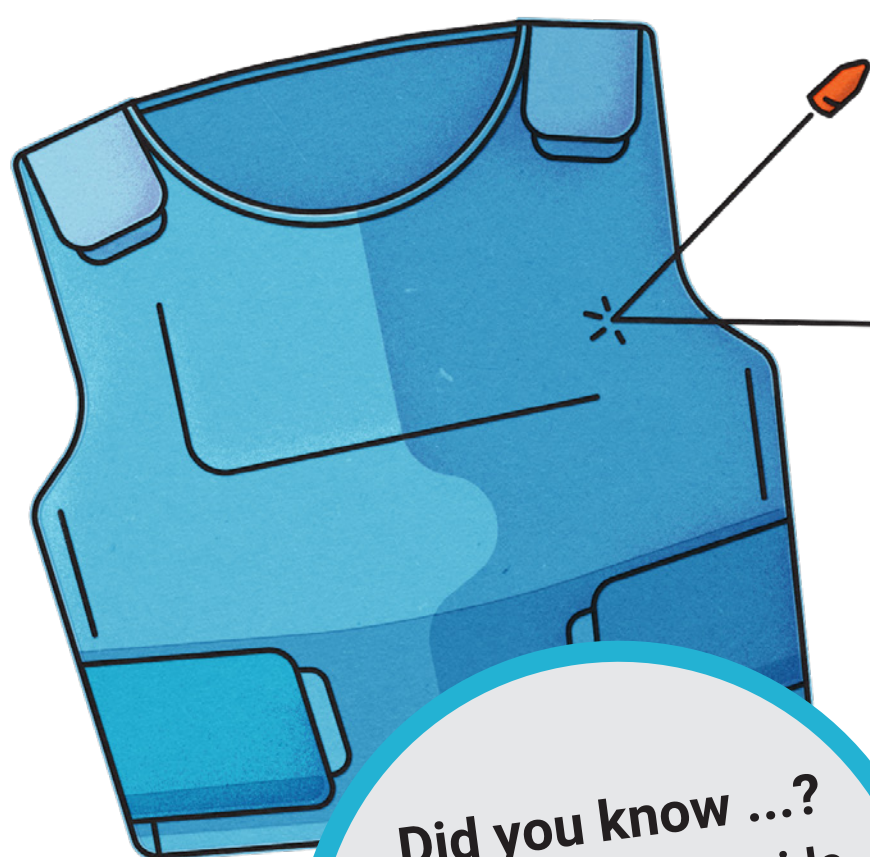
Condensation polymers

Condensation polymers form when **monomers** join together by removing small molecules like water or hydrogen chloride. They are found in nature in **proteins** or chemists can synthesise them. Examples include **polyesters** – such as poly(ethylene terephthalate), **PET**, used in bottles – and **polyamides** such as Kevlar, used in bulletproof vests.

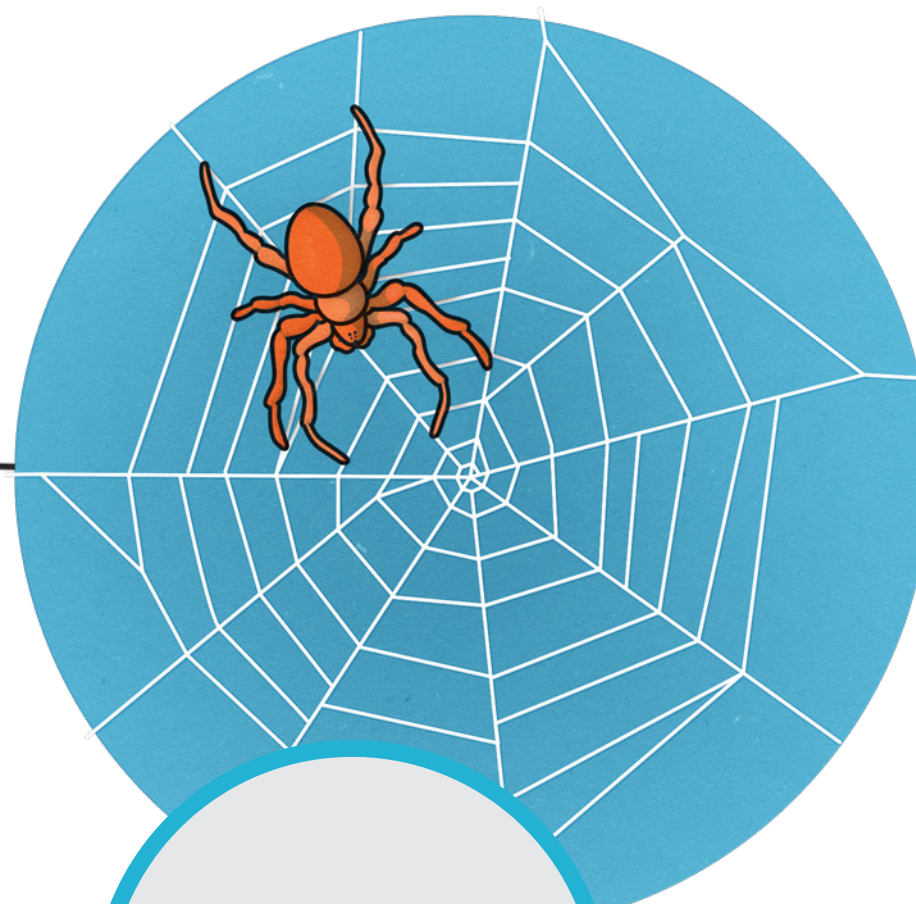


Environmental impact

Unlike **addition polymers**, **condensation polymers** contain bonds that we can **hydrolyse** back into the original **monomers**, making them more **biodegradable** and therefore more eco-friendly than **addition polymers**.



Did you know ...?
Kevlar is a **polyamide** and is five times stronger than steel by mass, making it ideal for bulletproof vests.



Did you know ...?
Spider silk is a natural **polyamide**.



Did you know ...?
Toothbrush bristles are often made of nylon, a **polyamide**, and during the second world war, parachutes were made of nylon too.