An average floating production system for offshore drilling costs between $1-4 billion and requires thousands of workers. It takes 10-15 years from initial exploratory well to the first production yield.

Oil is extracted from porous rocks found miles beneath the earth's surface, called reservoirs. From the floating production unit, oil then flows through miles of pipelines to refineries on shore. After the oil is refined into gasoline, it is then moved by pipeline or tanker truck to stations.

Heat and chemicals in the refineries are used to manufacture cleaner fuel. Refineries operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and become an integral part of the community. Despite the complex journey from platform to people, in the U.S., a gallon of gas sells for less than a gallon of milk.

Thousands of products, from cellphones to footballs, lipstick to aspirin—all got their start from a barrel of oil. Natural gas keeps the heat and lights on in our homes, offices, schools and hospitals.

The diagram illustrates the journey from platform to people, highlighting the complexities involved in offshore drilling and the refining process.