



SfS Away from the Classroom!

ES01: Oil Spill (Recommended for Grades 3-8)

Please use the following resources to learn about Oil Spills

Watch this Video: [Oil in the Ocean](#)

Answer these questions:

- What are some dangers of Oil Spills?
- Name one unusual material clean up crews used to tackle the Mississippi oil spill in the video?
- What's the biggest source of oil pollution in the ocean each year?

Activity: Follow these directions to compare different methods to remove spilled oil from water.

You will need:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cookie tray or towel• 3 bowls• Water• Spoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vegetable oil or hair conditioner• Cotton balls or paper towels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popsicle sticks or other stirring tools• Dish soap• 3 clear cups
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Set - up:

1. Place the 3 bowls on the cookie tray or towel for spills.
2. Fill each bowl halfway with water.
3. Gently add 1 Tbs of vegetable oil (or conditioner) to each bowl of water.

Oil Clean-up tests:

1. Skimmer: use a spoon as a skimmer and try to remove the oil from one bowl.
 - a. Collect the oil in one of the clear cups.
 - b. Remember not to take too much water.
2. Absorber: use the cotton balls (or paper towels) and try to absorb the oil from another bowl.
 - a. Squeeze out the cotton balls into another cup.
3. Disperser: add 1 tsp of dish soap into the last bowl.
 - a. Stir the mixture.
 - b. Remove the oil with the skimmer (spoon) into the last cup.

Compare the amount of oil collected in each cup.

Watch this video if you need help with the activity: [Oil Spill Activity](#)



Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

1. **Claim:** The best method to clean up Oil Spills is _____
 - **Evidence:**

 - **Reasoning:**

2. **Claim:** Current methods (skimmers, absorbents, dispersants) to clean up Oil Spills have pollution problems associated with them.
 - **Evidence:**

 - **Reasoning:**