

# JR-SCIENTISTS

# OIL SPILL

This eye-opening oil spill activity will sure to be a hit with your kids!

## INSTRUCTIONS:

**STEP 1:** Fill the tin pan/ tray half full of water.

**STEP 2:** Pour oil into the water.

**STEP 3:** Try different ways to clean up the oil.

Can you use the cotton balls? The paper towels?  
How about the spoon or medicine dropper to scoop out the oil?

**STEP 4:** Lastly, try using the Dawn Dish Soap.

## SUPPLIES

2 Tin Pans  
Water  
Vegetable Oil  
Dawn Dish Soap  
Medicine Dropper  
Spoon  
Paper Towels  
Cotton Balls

## WHAT IS AN OIL SPILL?

An oil spill is a form of pollution generally found in a marine ecosystem. However, oil spills can happen on land too. An oil spill occurs when oil leaks or spills into the water. Oil spills can also happen in rivers or lakes!

What causes an oil spill?

Oil spills are often caused by accidents, but they can also be caused by human error or carelessness. These accidents involve tankers, barges, oil drill rigs, and other places or methods of transportation that store or hold large amounts of oil.

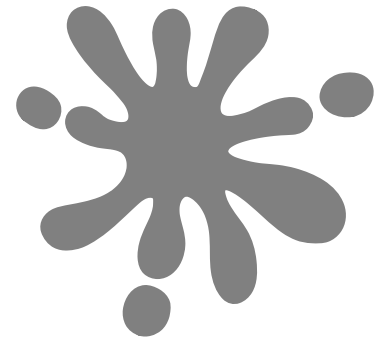
Why are oil spills harmful?

Oil spills are harmful to marine birds and mammals as well as fish and shellfish. Oil coats the feathers and fur of marine life which leave them susceptible to hypothermia (being too cold) because their fur or feathers cannot protect them from the weather.



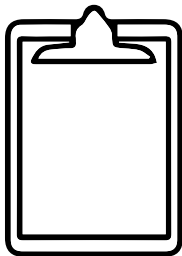
# Oil Spill Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



What kinds of ways do you think could we clean up an oil spill?

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RECORD

What items did you use to try and remove the oil?

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What had the best results? Why?

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What did you learn?

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