

Activity: Clean up an Oil Spill

Objective:

Determine the best method for cleaning up an oil spill.

Materials:

- Cooking oil
- Dish pan or disposable metal baking pan
- Pipecleaners or string
- Cotton balls
- Plastic spoons
- Dish soap

Procedure:

1. Fill the pan halfway with water.
2. Gently add one tablespoon of cooking oil to the surface of the water.
3. Use the other materials to determine the best way to clean up the oil and remove it from the water's surface.
4. Look at the link below to research the methods used to clean up a real oil spill.
<https://www.marineinsight.com/environment/10-methods-for-oil-spill-cleanup-at-sea/>

Discussion:

1. What object do you feel helped to clean up the oil spill most effectively in your simulated spill?
2. Match the objects used to the method they best model.

_____ pipecleaner or string	a. sorbents
_____ cotton balls	b. dispersants
_____ plastic spoon	c. skimmers
_____ dish soap	d. booms
3. What other methods are used in a real oil spill but were not tested in your model?
4. Dispersants are quite effective, but often allow the oil to sink below the surface, affecting marine life in deeper ocean areas. They are often used together with bioremediation. How would this help protect wildlife?