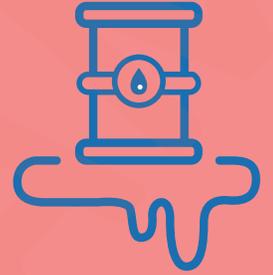


NAME:

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oil spills



ICM SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

In today's class, Team STEAM discussed **how humans impact habitats!** We learned about how ecosystems are getting destroyed and how this affects animals like Po!

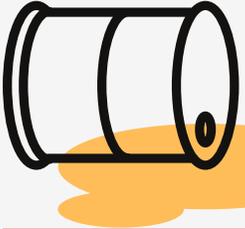
If you loved learning today with Team STEAM, continue reading to learn about oils spills and explore the **possibilities** of cleaning up an oil spill yourself!



Hi! I'm Po the Polar Bear!
Do you remember me
from your Team STEAM
class today? In this lesson,
we will talking about oil
spills! Come learn with me!



What are oil spills?



Oil spills are a form of pollution. They usually happen in the ocean but can happen on land as well.

What causes oil spills?



Oil is used for so many different things which is why many times they are transported in large tanks. These tanks can leak into the ocean or explode, causing a spill! Many times these spills are caused by accident or by pure carelessness.

WHAT IMPACTS DO OIL SPILLS HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

Oil and water DO NOT mix. For this reason, oil is a poison for animals and plants. Oil can make animals blind, make them unable to control their body temperature, and poison the animal if the oil enters their lungs or liver.



Oil spills affect Polar Bears like Po too! He's wondering what humans can do to help! Let's tell Po shall we?



What can you do to help?

Oil spills are very dangerous to humans, which is why it's important to stay away from them. But you can do simple things at home to help out on the efforts!

For one, you can use less electricity! Remember when we talked about how sometimes large tanks are used to hold oil? If we use less electricity, which uses oil, then we reduce the need to transport large tankers!

Maybe you can ride a bike somewhere rather than using a car. Cars use a lot of gas, which is made from oil! All these little things add up!



Now that we learned about this pollution and its impacts, let's help Po and explore the possibilities of how to clean up an oil spill!



Oil Spill Activity

General materials:

- plastic tub (any container that can hold water, such as Tupperware, a wide pot, etc)
- water
- preferably a dark colored oil such as olive oil (any oil will work though!)

The following are optional materials that you can use to create a habitat that will become affected by the oil spill! You can use other materials not listed here!

- rocks
- faux fur
- feathers
- moss
- sticks
- pieces of lettuce

Pick at least 3 of the following materials to help with the cleanup of the oil spill! You may use other materials as well!

- dish soap
- sponges
- plastic spoons
- eye droppers
- string
- straws
- cotton balls

Procedure:

- 1) Add around 2-3 inches of water to your plastic tub.
- 2) Optional: Create your habitat! Use the optional materials listed above to create a habitat in the plastic tub. Put rocks at the bottom, use lettuce to act as algae or plants; be creative!
- 3) Drop in 3-4 tablespoons of oil to create the oil spill!
- 4) Notice how oil affects your habitat like feathers or faux fur!
- 5) Using the materials you have chosen to clean up the oil spill, experiment between different supplies to test out what works BEST for cleaning up the most oil. See if the spoons will scoop out the oil, or if sponges will soak it up. Maybe nothing will work; you won't know unless you experiment!

We're so glad that you enjoyed your Team STEAM classes enough to come back and do this extra activity! We hope you come back tomorrow for another Team STEAM class! We would love to hear about your amazing exploration skills with oil spills!



I'm so happy that you helped clean up an oil spill and learned about how dangerous they are to animals like me!