

Lesson #2
Oil Spills
(Polluted water)

Objective: Students will be able to define and oil spill, what causes them, and describe how the problem is solved.

Materials: 4 large shallow pans, water, vegetable oil, paper towels, sponges, spoons, Oil Spill by Melvin Berger

State Standards:

4.3.4 B. Identify how human action effect environmental health.

Procedure:

- Introduce the book, Oil Spill by Melvin Berger, and make predictions.
- Begin to read the book to the students. Stop on page 14 for discussion. Discuss the reasons an oil spill can occur and how the oil spill effects the environment.
- Discuss how the problem can be solved.
- Take a large shallow pan and fill it with water. Pour in vegetable oil. Have students generate ideas on how the oil can be removed from the water.
- Distribute materials to each team of four students. They should each have a pan of water and oil. The students will most likely predict that paper towels, sponges, and spoons will be the most effective way to remove the oil from the water. If they come up with more ideas, the investigation may have to continue the following class.
- Allow students time to work with the tools.
- Collect materials.
- Discuss what materials they found to be the most effective in removing the oil.
- Continue with the story. Pages 15 on describe how oil spills are corrected.

Closure:

- Compare/Contrast the results of the classroom investigation with how the experts clean oil spills.
- Discuss what types of pollution we could expect to see in our rivers and how they can be and are cleaned.
- Journal what we learned about oil spills.