



# HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS

OIL SPILLS

Oil spills into rivers and oceans are devastating for the plant and wild life that come anywhere near it.

The best way to understand how and why oil is so damaging to aquatic environments is to see how oil interacts with water for yourself. In this next resource, you will be building your own river and polluting it with some oil – think about why oil reacts the way it does with water, watch how it moves in the water and have a close look at what it does to the animal and plant life it comes in contact with.



## The Experiment

What You Need: Oil (motor or even just some cooking oil), deep tray, water, materials to form river bed (clay/stones/sand/soil), materials to form river plant life – e.g. grass tufts, moss, twigs etc, materials to represent animal life – e.g. feathers, fan, Spatula, Dish Soap/big sponge

1

Put clay/soil/stones etc in the tray – form a river bed and build the river banks up the sides of the tray

2

Place your twigs/grass tufts etc on the river banks to create the river environment.

3

Carefully pour water into the tray, leaving the river banks visible

3

Pop in a feather and more grass etc into the water and add oil to the water on one side of the tray.

4

Take note of what the oil does and draw it in your notebook

5

Turn the fan on and direct it at the oil – what happens? Draw the movement of the oil into your notebook

5

Use the spatula to mimic the river's current and try mixing the oil and water together – what happens?

5

As you continue adding oil, look at how it spreads throughout the water using the fan and spatula. What has happened to the feather?

5

Now try getting rid of the oil – try adding washing detergent, for example.

# VIDEOS FOR THIS RESOURCE AT:

INTRODUCTION:



Clickable Link:

<https://youtu.be/EREBps5d3Uc>

CONCLUSION:



Clickable Link:

[https://youtu.be/PN\\_Gzb3E\\_FU](https://youtu.be/PN_Gzb3E_FU)

