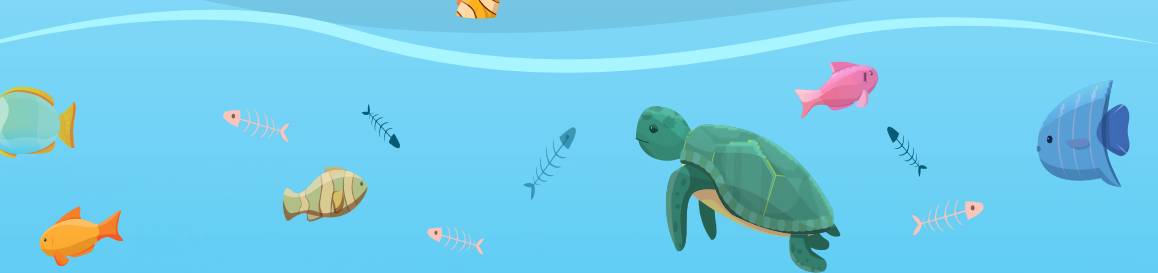
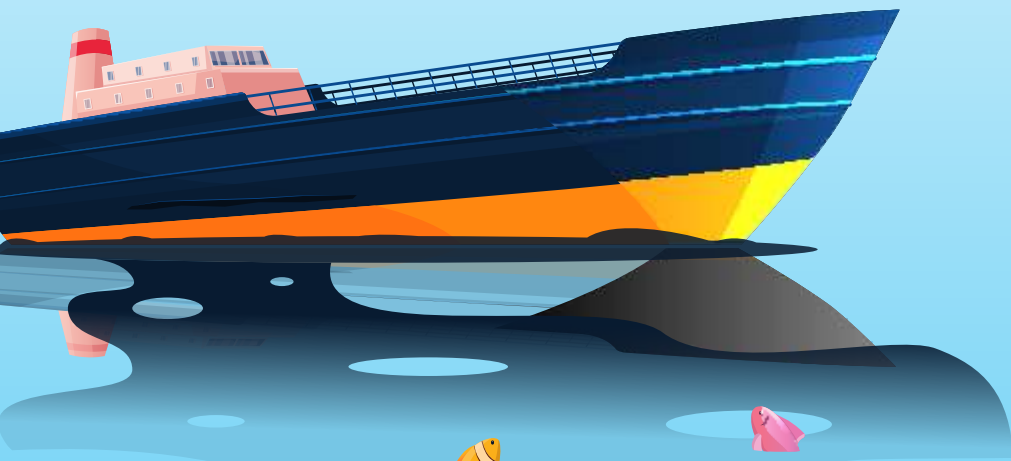




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# The Oil Spill



# Oil Spill Experiment

Tara's grandmother asked her to fetch hair oil for her scalp massage. Tara found the process relaxing and recalled the story of sea otters and oil spills in the oceans. Oil spills can occur due to accidents, human error, or carelessness involving tankers, barges, and oil drill rigs that store or hold large amounts of oil. These

spills harm marine birds and animals like sea

otters, whose feathers

and fur become coated with oil and lose their insulation properties.

Tara discovered an easy experiment to demonstrate how oil floats on the water's surface and sticks to the bodies of marine animals.

She gathered the necessary materials:



- A bowl or container
- Water
- Vegetable oil
- Medicine dropper
- Spoon
- Paper towels
- Cotton balls

Step 1: Fill the bowl halfway with water.

Step 2: Pour oil into the water. Dip your finger into the water. What do you observe?

Step 3: Try different ways to clean up the oil. Can you use cotton balls? How about paper towels? Did you try the spoon or medicine dropper to scoop out the oil? What do you observe?

Tara followed all the instructions and observed that her finger became coated with oil when she dipped it in the water. She now understood how oil sticks to marine animals' fur and feathers.

Luckily, as a human, Tara was able to remove the oil by wiping it off with a rag and rinsing it with soap.

Tara was relieved to learn that oil companies are taking measures to prevent spills as the best way to protect marine creatures.



## New Words

1. **Tankers** - large ships used for transporting oil or other liquids in bulk
2. **Barges** - flat-bottomed boats used for carrying goods, often pushed or towed by another vessel
3. **Rag** - a piece of cloth used for cleaning or wiping surfaces.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

## Comprehension

1. What did Tara find relaxing?
2. What can cause oil spills in oceans and seas?
3. How do oil spills affect marine animals?
4. What materials do you need for the oil spill experiment?
5. How did Tara remove the oil from her finger?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

## Prompts Pair up

1. Perform the above experiment with your partner and discuss your observations after step 2 and step 3.
2. **Feathers and Fur in Oil**  
With your partner, gather the following materials:
  - a. A bowl or container filled halfway with water
  - b. Vegetable oil
  - c. Feathers and small pieces of fur or fabric
  - d. Tongs or tweezers
- b. Using tongs or tweezers, dip the feathers and fur into the oil-contaminated water.
- c. Observe how the oil affects the feathers and fur.
- d. Discuss with your partner how this could impact marine animals in real-life oil spills.

### Instructions:

- a. Pour oil into the bowl of water.

Watch the video  
on oil spills  
using the  
QR code.



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