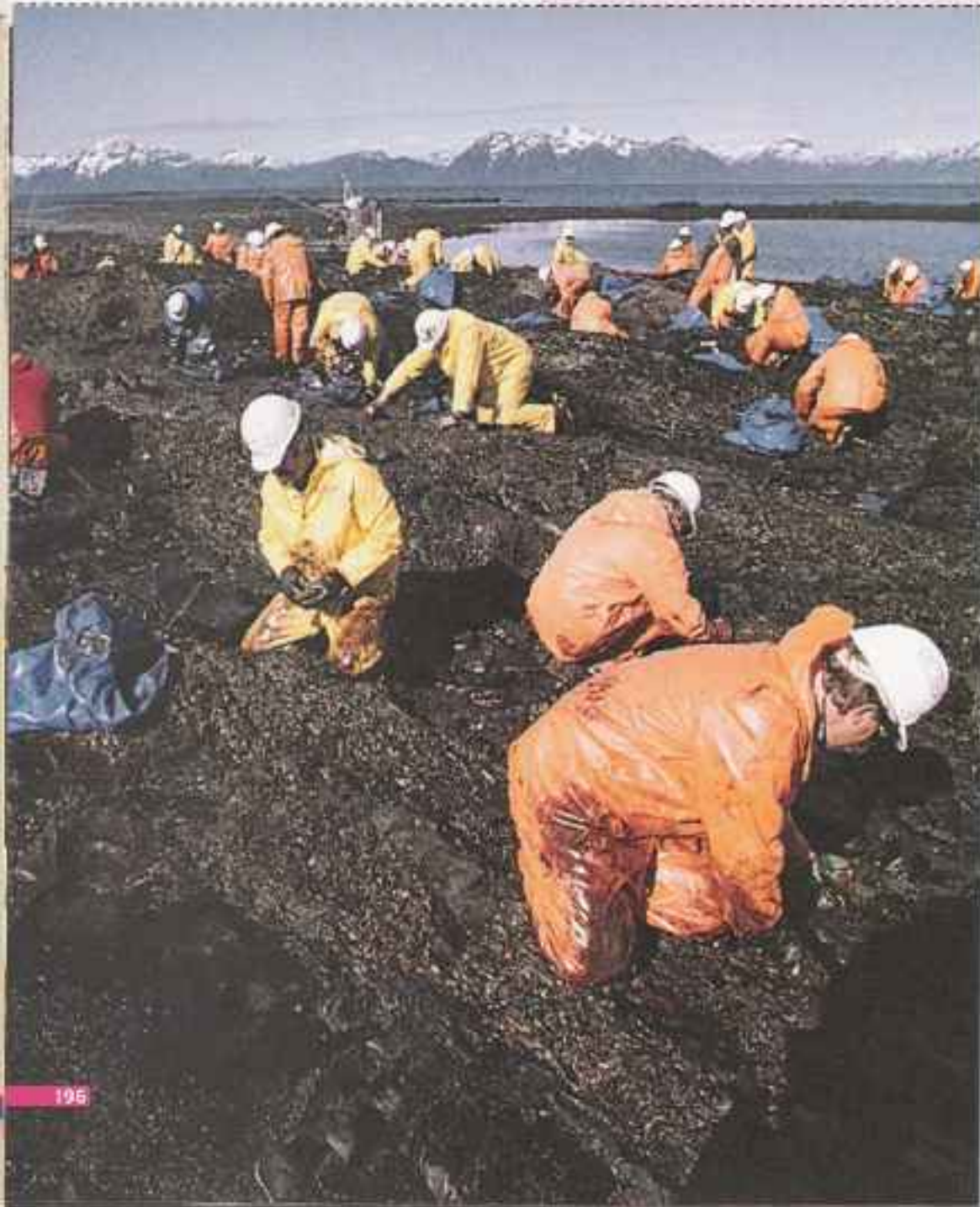


Oil Up



Oil is both an energy source and a raw material that is used to make many of the things you use each day. Learn more about this interesting, slippery substance.



1. A Day's Work

Learn what rescue workers or scientists do to try to save animals that have been affected by an oil spill. Read a story, watch a TV show or video, or use the Internet to get information.

2. Fossil Facts

Create a display that shows how plants and animals from millions of years ago became the oil used today.

3. Where in the World?

Design a map that shows where most major oil deposits around the world are located.

4. Around the World

Pick one country other than your own that supplies the world with oil. Find out about the people who live there. What are their customs? What languages do they speak? If you were to visit there, what would you want to see?



5. Make and Clean Up an Oil Spill

Oil is often prepared and shipped thousands of miles (or kilometers) before it reaches your home, school, or local gas station. An oil spill is always a risk. Find out why oil spills can be so difficult to clean up. To see what it's like to make and clean up an oil spill, pour some cooking oil in a bowl or pan of water. Try different ways of getting the oil out of the water.

- Try to gather it all in one place using a string.
- Try to skim it off with a spoon.
- Try to soak it up with paper towels or cotton balls.

What else can you use?
What works best?

6. How Does an Oil Spill Affect a Beach?

Use sand and water to build a "beach" in a foil pan. Put a block of wood, rock, feather, furry fabric, leaf, or a twig in the sand. Pour vegetable oil in the water and make waves to wash the oil up onto the beach. What happens? Try removing the oil from the objects on the beach using the techniques listed in activity 5 for an oil spill.

7. Ten? Twenty?

How many careers are involved in finding oil, getting it out of the earth, moving it from place to place, making fuels from it, producing chemicals and other products from it, and preventing and cleaning up oil spills? Read an article or Web page, or watch a TV show or video about jobs in the fields of geology, engineering, ship building, or environmental protection.



Oil spills are dangerous to animals. This bear's fur has been coated with oil from an oil spill.

8. Oil Drop

Pretend you are a drop of oil. Create a comic book or skit that explains what happened to you after you were removed from the earth. How were you transported? Where were you taken? What changes did you go through? Where are you now?

9. Come Clean

Visit a service station when it's not very busy. How many spots of oil or grease do you see on the ground? Ask the service station manager how he or she cleans up oil and gasoline spills. How does the person dispose of the used oil when the oil in a car is changed? What does the service station do to prevent spills?

10. It's in What?

If fewer petroleum products were used, the chances of oil spills would be reduced. To the right is a list of products that are made from petroleum. Keep a log for one week of which petroleum products you use and why you are using them. At the end of the week, look at your chart. What can you personally do to cut down on petroleum usage?

Petroleum Products

Fabrics made of synthetic fibers
Most "wrinkle-free" clothes
Plastic bags, containers, pails
Food packaging
Vinyl house siding
Interior and exterior paints
Toys
Video and audio tapes
CDs (music and computer)
Costume jewelry
Detergents
Rugs, carpets

Methane for heating
Propane for camp lighting, barbecue grills
Automotive gasoline and aviation fuel
Diesel fuel
Home heating oil
Finished lubricating oils
Wax
Varnishes, alcohols, solvents
Prescription drugs, plastic intravenous (IV) bags, and sterile syringes
Computers, cellular phones, and fax

Asphalt
Baby oil
Lip gloss
Skin lotion
Jet fuel
Petroleum jelly
Charcoal lighter fluid
Paraffin wax
Paint thinner