

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

August 2022 – Ocean Awareness

Indoor Activity: Ocean Oil Spill Experiment

Oil spills cause major long-lasting effects on numerous ecosystems. Hypothermia is a common occurrence in otters within the vicinity of spill as the oil will coat their fur leaving them vulnerable to temperature drops. In addition, breathing and communication in marine mammals can become extremely difficult when their blowholes are clogged by the oil. These are only a few of the reasons it is extremely important for us to be aware and take precautions regarding our impact as humans on other ecosystems. In this experiment you will gain a better understanding of how much harder it is to reverse the effects of an oil spill rather than taking steps to prevent them.

Benefits

- Learning how hard it is to clean an oil spill
- Fun for all ages!
- See the importance in maintaining clean oceans.

Supplies

- Vegetable Oil
- Water
- Plastic Container
- Spoon
- Sponge
- Cotton Balls
- (Optional:)
 - Plastic Critters & Rocks
 - Blue Food Coloring
 - Cocoa Powder



What to do

- Fill the plastic container with water. (You can make it blue with a drop of food coloring!)
- If you are using rocks and plastic critters, you can create an ecosystem in the water.
- Once the ecosystem is complete add a few tablespoons of oil to the water. (By mixing cocoa powder with the oil you can make it darker!)
- Now it is time to try and clean up the oil spill. Try to remove all of the oil from the water using the various tools; spoon, sponge, and cotton balls.

After trying to clean up your ecosystem could you imagine trying to clean a whole ocean from the effects of an oil spill? The effects of a small oil spill can take roughly 15 years to completely disappear.

Outdoor Activity: Find a Way to Support Your Local Community

Being geographically distanced from major commerce trade and hubs it is important for oceanic cultures to have strong community connections and support. Te Ara- The Cook Island Museum of Cultural Enterprise’s mission is to promote business growth to boost economic and social growth for their area. How can you support your area? For this activity research local community projects, you can volunteer for as well as locally owned businesses in your area. If you can try visiting some of the shops, or volunteer for some of the projects you find in your research and get to know the members of your community.

***Remember to always travel with adult supervision!**

For more information about Te Ara- The Cook Island Museum of Cultural Enterprise click [here](#). In addition Te Ara will be one of our guest speakers on the Ocean Awareness Mission Conservation Live Stream!

[Additional Supplies \(Optional\)](#)

- A map or GPS
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Sunscreen



SHOP SMALL
-&-
support local businesses