

GOAL:

Explore the effects of water pollution and measure the effectiveness of cleaning techniques.

MATERIALS:

- 2-inch-deep baking pan
- water
- measuring cup
- cooking oil
- feathers
- blue food dye
- reusable straw
- cotton balls
- kitchen sponge

STEPS:

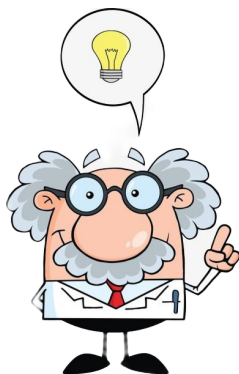
1. Fill baking pan with one inch of water. Stir in a few drops of blue food dye. Scatter some feathers and cotton balls on top of your water.
2. Carefully pour 1/4 cup of oil on top of your water, feathers, and cotton balls.
3. Watch to see how the materials mix.
4. Try to remove the oil from the water with your fingers, a straw, and then a sponge.

DISCUSSION:

Try to imagine this oil spill were thousands of gallons of oil spilling into Lake Michigan. What sort of tools could we use to clean it?

How would an oil spill affect our local wildlife?

What other types of pollution occur in Lake Michigan?



QUICK TIP: Look around your house for other objects you might be able to use to remove the oil from water!

WHAT IS WATER POLLUTION?

Water pollution occurs when pollutants (particles, chemicals, or substances that contaminate water) enter bodies of water. Pollutants get into water mainly through the actions of humans.

WHAT CAUSES WATER POLLUTION?

Water can become contaminated through many activities and materials, including:

- Mining
- Fertilizers from farming
- Chemicals from factories
- Oil spills
- Sewage
- Trash

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF WATER POLLUTION?

Water pollution affects our environment and wildlife.

- *Health:* When our water becomes polluted, we can no longer drink it. If we can't clean the pollution from our water, we will get sick when we use it.
- *Ecosystem:* Pollution can easily travel through streams and rivers, which means that more bodies of water can become contaminated.
- *Wildlife:* Animals that drink or live in the polluted water might die, and their species might become endangered. How many animals use Lake Michigan as their home or food source? Let's find out [here](#).

FOR MORE IN-DEPTH INSTRUCTION AND VISUALS, GO TO:

<http://scienceafterschool.blogspot.com/2012/07/oil-spill-connecting-stem-activities-to.html>

<https://sciencing.com/oil-spill-information-kids-5444185.html>