

## Oil Spill Lab

Ms. Anderson APES 2014

Renaissance High School

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During this lab you were given a small ocean that had suffered a catastrophic oil spill. Accompanying your ocean was a beach with at least three sea creatures who had been covered in oil. Your task was to remove as much oil as possible from the water and the beach.

Despite efforts to improve safety made by numerous oil companies as well as the EPA compounded with the value we put on oil, it being an increasingly scarce natural resource spills happen. All of us have seen the devastation that can result for the organisms in the region.

Oil tankers are the largest ships to sail in the ocean. They are designed to hold millions of barrels of crude or refined oil in relative safety, and without damage to the environment. For countries such as Japan that have no oil reserves of their own, tankers are the only way that the oil needed to power their economies can be moved.

Generally, these ships are safe, and most of the time they get to their destinations without incident. However, these ships sometimes release oil through either accidental or purposeful means. During the Gulf War of 1991, it was thought that Iraq would attack oil tankers leaving port; as a result, allied forces spent a large amount of resources and money making sure that these ships were safe. As for accidental releases of oil, the Exxon Valdez released millions of barrels of oil in the Prince William Sound in Alaska in the mid-80's.

For your lab report you must include a one page detailed description of what you attempted to use to clean up your oil spill and why you made that choice, evaluate how effective it was. Tell me how effective you were overall at cleaning up your oil spill. Why were you successful or not successful? If you could give someone one piece of advice before doing this lab what would it be? The second page should evaluate how real oil spills are cleaned up, citing examples and you could critique/evaluate the effectiveness of existing methods. Include at least 2 credible sources.