



curriculum links

Grade 4:

- Health and Physical Education
Fundamental Movement Skills
- Science and Technology
Understanding Life Systems: Habitats and Communities



overview

Students observe how water and oil interact with each other and some of the methods used to extract oil from water. This educates them about the hazards of commercial oil spills (such as from tankers) and the impact of oil contamination from household sources. Students are also given the chance to clean bird feathers that have become contaminated through an oil spill.

grade 4 expectations

Understanding Life Systems Habitats and Communities

Overall Expectations

- ◆ Locomotion/Travelling Skills
- ◆ Manipulation Skills
- ◆ Stability Skills

Social Studies

Canada and World Connections: Features of Communities Around the World

Overall Expectations

- ◆ Analyse the effects of human activities on habitats and communities

Specific Expectations

Relating Science and Technology to Society and the Environment



Oil Slick



- Analyse the positive and negative impacts of human interactions with natural habitats and communities, taking different perspectives into account and evaluate ways of minimizing negatives impacts.
- Identify reasons for the depletion or extinction of a plant or animal species, evaluate the impacts on the rest of the natural community, and propose possible actions for preventing such depletions or extinctions from happening (i.e. oil spills causing species to die).

Developing Investigation and Communication Skills

- Use scientific/inquiry research skills to investigate ways in which plants and animals in a community depend on features of their habitat to meet important needs.

Understanding Basic Concepts

- Describe ways in which humans are dependent on natural habitats and communities.

Key terms

Adaptation: An inherited structural, functional or behavioural characteristic of an organism, which improves its chances for survival and reproduction in a particular microhabitat or environment.

Ecosystem: An interconnected complex of plant and animal communities and their non-living environment including the physical, chemical and biological components.

Contaminant: A substance introduced into the air, water, or soil that reduces its usefulness to humans and other organisms in nature (e.g. making water impure and unfit for consumption or use).

Habitat: The arrangement of food, water, shelter and space within an ecosystem to meet an organism's health and survival.

Storm Drain (System): An underground system of pipes used to carry off excess surface runoff.

Toxic Substance: Any substance that can cause serious harm or death in an organism or its offspring.

Yellow-Fish Road™ Program: A hands on environmental project for youth to help decrease water pollution in their community. Yellow Fish Road™ volunteers paint yellow fish next to storm drains and distribute brochures to remind people that anything that enters a storm drain system goes directly into the local waterbody.

