Ecosystems

A Slick Solution: Cleaning an Oil Spill

FICTION

One Pelican at a Time: A Story of the Gulf Oil Spill
By Nancy Stewart
Bella and Britt love living by the beach. When they find oil washing to shore from a gulf spill, they want to help but are told there is nothing for kids to do. But when their old friend, the pelican, becomes covered with oil, they help save his life by their quick thinking and action. (26 pages)
Recommended for reading at 2–5 grade level.
Publisher: Guardian Angel Publishing
ISBN: 1616331399

Oliver and the Oil Spill
By Aruna Chandrasekhar
When the lives of some otters are threatened by a huge oil spill, a group of people try to save as many of the animals as possible. (29 pages)
Recommended for reading at 4–5 grade level.
Publisher: Landmark Editions
ISBN: 0933849338

Secrets of the Garden
By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
Alice’s family plants a vegetable garden each spring, and this budding naturalist reports all she sees about how the plants grow, what insects come to eat the plants, and what birds and animals come to eat the insects. (40 pages)
Recommended for reading at K–4 grade level.
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers
ISBN: 0517709902

NEWS ARTICLES

Nanomagnets Corral Oil
By Emily Sohn
for Science News for Students
Scientists may have found a clever way to clean up oil spills — with magnets.
Recommended for reading at 3–5 grade level.
https://student.societyforscience.org/article/nanomagnets-corral-oil

An Oil Filter for Water
By Stephen Ornes
for Science News for Students
A new screen can separate oil and water after they’ve mingled.
Recommended for reading at 3–5 grade level.
https://student.societyforscience.org/article/oil-filter-water

Pollution at the Ends of the Earth
By Douglas Fox
for Science News for Students
Chemicals are turning up in small Arctic villages from factories and cities.
Recommended for reading at 3–5 grade level.
https://student.societyforscience.org/article/pollution-ends-earth

Want to suggest other resources for the unit? Write to eie@mos.org. For science and literacy resources that support other EiE units, visit eie.org.
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NON-FICTION

After the Spill: The Exxon Valdez Disaster, Then and Now
By Sandra Markle

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon “Valdez” wrecked in Prince William Sound, resulting in one of the worst oil spills in history—an environmental disaster that cost several billion dollars and took years to clean up. Today, this area continues to display the effects of the event—both negative and positive. This book explores the relationship between nature, society, and man, and the changes that occurred when this delicate balance was upset. (32 pages)

Recommended for reading at 3–5 grade level.
Publisher: Walker and Company
ISBN: 0802786103

Oil Spill!
By Melvin Berger

Oil spills can have many different causes, but the result is the same. Oil harms plants and wildlife that make the oceans and coastlines their home. Scientists are learning the best ways to combat oil spills. Learn how you can help, too! (32 pages)

Recommended for reading at K-4 grade level.
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Soar to Success
ISBN: 0395779138

NON-FICTION

Who Eats What?: Food Chains and Food Webs
By Patricia Lauber and Holly Keller

Informative and intriguing, this science book teaches children to think about the complex and interdependent web of life on Earth. Every link in a food chain is important because each living thing depends on others for survival, no matter how big or how small. (32 pages)

Recommended for reading at K-4 grade level.
Publisher: HarperCollins
ISBN: 0064451305

The Shape of Betts Meadow
By Meghan Sayres

When Gunnar Lundquist bought an old cow pasture, he used a crane and bulldozer (and a little help from Mother Nature) to turn the lifeless patch of dirt into a thriving wetlands pond and marsh. (32 pages)

Recommended for reading at K-5 grade level.
Publisher: Millbrook Press
ISBN: 0761321152

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