

Oil: Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get the students to read the questions through first and deal with any vocabulary questions that arise.
2. Do question one together in open class to get the ball rolling.
3. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
4. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 2

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1. Get the students to do this exercise individually before checking in pairs..
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Answers: 1. Drilling 2. oil tanker 3. greased lightning 4. pour oil on troubled waters 5. greasy 6. oil rig 7. burned the midnight oil 8. oilskin 9. grease the palms 10. oil

Activity 3

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1. Get the students to read the questions through first and deal with any vocabulary questions that arise.
2. Do question one together in open class to get the ball rolling.
3. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
4. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 4

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers: 1. b) Oil Disasters 2. a) Birds 3. See below.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'Oil'.

1. Although oil is a naturally-occurring substance which sometimes seeps out of the ground as a result of natural causes, it createsECOLOGICAL.... havoc when it is released in large quantities into a vulnerable, unsuspecting environment.
2. Oil spills occur when petroleumLEAKS... from broken pipelines which conduct the oil either on land or on the seabed, oil tankers which break up at sea, or from land-based oil wells or offshore platforms, also known as rigs.
3. Perhaps one of the mostPOIGNANT... images chosen by journalists is that of the struggling, oil-covered bird.
4. Some estimates indicate that fewer than one in a hundred birds covered in oil survives the.....ORDEAL..
5. There are various clean-up methods, none of them ..TOTALLY... successful.
6. Collecting orRECOVERING.... the oil and taking it away is a huge challenge affected by many things.

Answer: PETROL (P for Poignant [3], E for Ecological [1], T for Totally [5], R for Recovering [6], O for Ordeal [4], L for Leaks [2]).

Activity 5

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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