

STEM

Science | Technology
Engineering | Mathematics

SAVE THE BIRD



THE ADVENTURE:

Figure out what happens to a bird when its feathers are covered in oil after an oil spill.

Do:

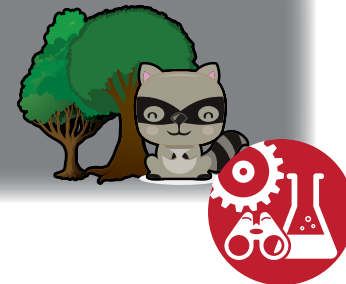
Fly like a bird:

- Feel the feathers. What do they feel like? How do you think they help the bird as it flies?
- Imagine you are a bird and fly around the room. Dive in the ocean to catch a fish, and walk on the shoreline. How do you think it will feel to be covered in feathers (like the one you just felt) and fly?
- Dip the feather in water. What does it feel like now? Can birds fly with wet feathers?

What does an oily feather feel like?

- Dip your feathers in vegetable oil. How do they feel now? What has changed? Feel individual feathers and then rub them together. Do you think the bird can fly?

RINGTAIL'S HOLLOW Environment & Outdoors



PLAN:

- In the weeks before the activity, you can talk to your parents and teachers to learn more about oil spills.
- Your Scouters will bring in feathers for everyone to use in this activity, but you can bring in your own types of feathers to see if oil and water affect them the same way.

- Imagine you are a bird with oily feathers. Try to fly, dive in the water and walk on the shore.

Clean the feather:

- Try to wash the oil off the feather with water. Does it work?
- Use dishwashing soap. This is how scientists and volunteers clean oiled birds. Make sure to get rid of all the oil. How does the feather feel now? Does the feather feel the same as it did before it had oil on it?
- Dip the feathers in water. What does it feel like now? Do you think the bird can fly just like it did before it had oil on it?

Canadianpath.ca

the
Pond

Imperial

ExxonMobil



It starts with Scouts.

REVIEW:

- What do you know about oil spills and how they impact the environment that you did not know before?
- What did you like about these activities? What did you not like? How would you do them differently?
- How do you think you can learn more about what is being done to save and protect birds in your community?

ONLINE RESOURCES:

Find more information and some pictures about how scientists help birds after an oil spill: www.kidzworld.com/article/24170-oil-spills-sad-but-true

MATERIALS:

- Bucket
- 2-3 large feathers per Beaver Scout (your Scouters can buy them at a craft shop)
- Bowl
- Hand towels
- Dishwashing soap
- Vegetable oil
- Water

