Oil spill containment and clean up investigation

**You will need:**

Tray or bowl with large surface area Vegetable oil Elastic bands

Paper towels or tissue String Tooth picks

Cotton wool balls Clingfilm Lolly sticks

Balloons Corks Straws

Pipettes Spoons Cooked rice

Grass Sand

**The experiment**

Put some water into your bowl or tray and add 2 tablespoons of oil.

Use the equipment to try and contain the oil and stop it spreading as much as possible. If the method you try is unsuccessful, try another.

Now use the equipment to try and remove as much of the oil from the water as possible. Again, if the method you try is unsuccessful, try another.

**Things to think about**

Was this an easy task?

How is vegetable oil different to crude oil? Do you think crude oil would be easier or more difficult to remove?

Would your method work in reality on a largescale?

In reality oil does not just have to be removed from water. Try coating small stones or feathers in your vegetable oil. Of could you remove it from these?