

Oil Spill Lab (Feathers)

Follow the instructions to complete the lab activity.

Step 1: Assemble all needed materials:

Motor/ Vegetable oil	Cotton balls	Water
2 feathers	Eye dropper	Cotton swabs
Cleaning supplies		

Step 2: Examine a feather. Describe the feather's shape, color, texture and overall condition.

Step 3: Use an eye dropper and drop several drops of water onto your feathers. Record what you observe.

Step 4: Oil has now been spilled in your ecosystem. Use an eyedropper and drop several drops of oil onto the feathers. Rub the oil gently into the feathers to simulate the bird trying to clean itself. Observe and record what you see. How have the feathers' appearance changed since Step 3?

Step 5: What method or cleaning supplies would you use to clean your feathers? Choose 2. Why did you choose these?

Step 6: Using the cleaning methods or supplies you chose, go ahead and clean your feathers. How did each work?
