

LEVELED BOOK • L

Oil: A Messy Resource



Written by
Ned Jensen

www.readinga-z.com

Oil: A Messy Resource



Written by Ned Jensen

www.readinga-z.com

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
How We Get Oil	6
Problems with Drilling Underwater	8
Other Sources of Oil Spills	12
What People Think About Oil Drilling	13
Conclusion	15
Glossary	16



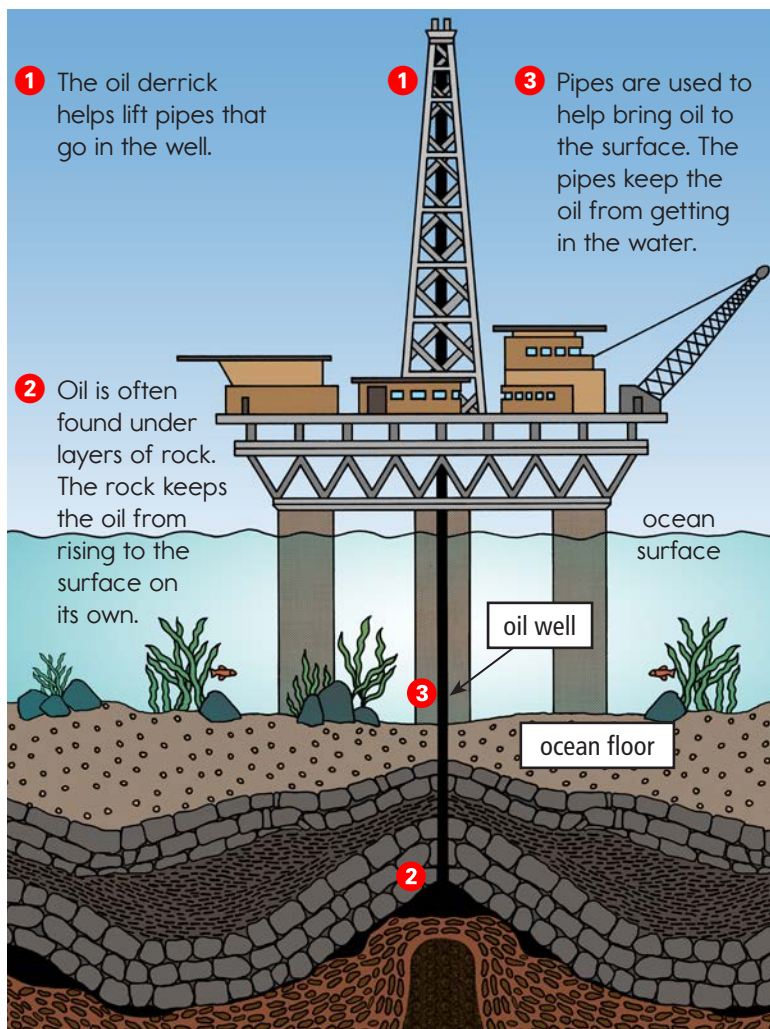
Introduction

Oil is a very important **resource**. We use oil for **energy**. We use it to make gas for cars. We use it to heat buildings. We even use it to make plastic things and medicines.



This pump helps bring oil to the surface.

Oil comes from below the ground.
We use large drills to dig **wells**. The
wells bring oil to the **surface**. Then
we can use the oil.



How We Get Oil

Oil is found in many places. Some of these places are below land, but others are below the ocean floor.



The Development Driller III rig in the Gulf of Mexico

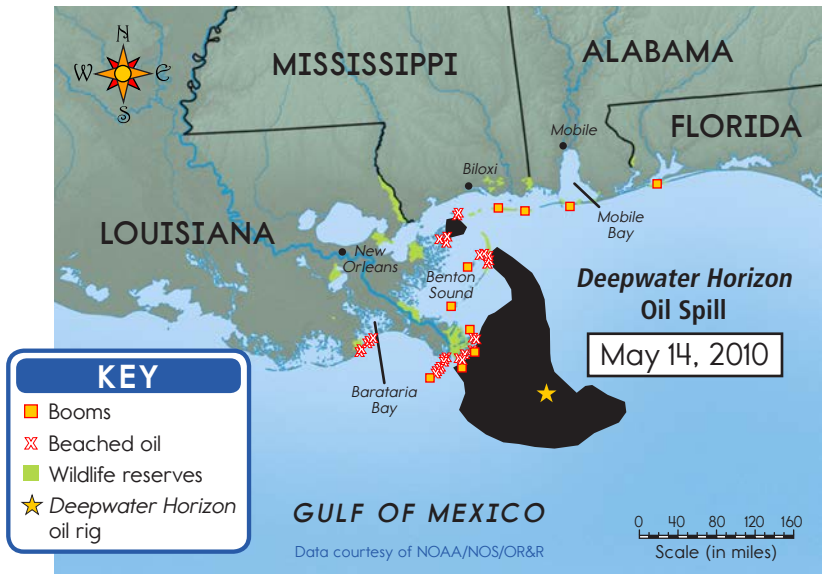
An oil rig is a machine that drills for oil. Oil rigs drill deep into the ground. Some special oil rigs can float on the ocean. They use pipes to bring the oil to the surface.



Deepwater Horizon oil rig on fire in April 2010

Problems with Drilling Underwater

Problems can happen when people drill for oil. This floating oil rig caught fire. Some people were killed, and others got hurt.



Oil looks red floating on the ocean's surface.

The oil rig burned and sank into the water. Oil from the well below the rig began to **leak** into the ocean.



Officials look for signs of oil on shore.

When lots of oil leaks from a well, it makes an **oil spill**. Oil spills can become very large. Oil spills cause harm to people and other animals.



Pelicans would be in serious danger if oil got near their island home.

When oil floats to the shore, it covers everything. Sand and rocks get covered. Birds and other animals get covered. Oil makes a mess and can kill many plants and animals.



(Above) The *Exxon Valdez* tanker spill in 1989 was one of the worst oil spills in U.S. history. (Below) A worker is covered in oil after helping clean up part of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

Other Sources of Oil Spills

Wells are not the only cause of oil spills. Oil tankers are big ships that



carry oil across oceans. If an oil tanker crashes or sinks, lots of oil can get in the water. It can take years to clean up the mess from a large oil spill.



People rally for the shore to be cleaned after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

What People Think About Oil Drilling

Some people think we should not drill for oil under oceans. Some people think we should not ship oil in large tankers. They say it would be easy for something to go wrong. They say that oil spills could happen.



Safety rules help keep oil workers and the environment safe.

Other people think we should keep drilling for oil under oceans. These people think we can find safe ways to drill for oil and carry it on ships. They say that good rules help keep oil spills from happening.



Oil rig in the Cook Inlet in Alaska

Conclusion

Everyone agrees that oil spills are bad. But it's also true that oil is an important resource. Do you think drilling for oil under the ocean is a good idea? Do you think we can take a chance on another oil spill happening?

Glossary

- energy** (*n.*) the power to do work, make a change, or move objects (p. 4)
- leak** (*v.*) to accidentally allow liquid or gas to escape (p. 9)
- oil spill** (*n.*) the accidental release of oil into the environment (p. 10)
- resource** (*n.*) a supply of something valuable or very useful (p. 4)
- surface** (*n.*) the outside or top part of a thing; the part of the ocean or land that touches the air above it (p. 5)
- wells** (*n.*) deep holes that are dug into the ground to get water, gas, or oil (p. 5)

Photo Credits:

Front cover: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael B. Watkins; back cover: © Martin Smith/FLPA/Minden Pictures/National Geographic Stock; page 1: © Ira Block/National Geographic Stock; page 4 (main): © iStockphoto.com; page 4 (left inset): © Brian Hagiwara/Brand X/Corbis; page 4 (top right inset): © iStockphoto.com/Elnur Amikishiyev; page 4 (bottom right inset): © iStockphoto.com/Yunus Arakon; page 5: © iStockphoto.com/Andrew Penner; page 6: U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service/J. Martin © Learning A-Z; page 7: image provided by BP via USCG/© 2009 Ken Childress Photography; pages 8, 9: courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard; page 10: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael B. Watkins; page 11: © REUTERS/Sean Gardner; page 12 (top): © John Gaps III/AP Images; page 12b: (bottom): U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jonathen E. Davis; page 13: © REUTERS/Carlos Barria; page 14: © REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch; page 15: © Alaska Stock Images/National Geographic Stock

Oil: A Messy Resource
Level L Leveled Book
© Learning A-Z
Written by Ned Jensen

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL L	
Fountas & Pinnell	K
Reading Recovery	18
DRA	20

Oil: A Messy Resource

A Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book

Word Count: 401



Reading A-Z

Visit www.readinga-z.com

for thousands of books and materials.