

## iCONN Learning Activity Alaska and Oil

**Level:** Elementary School

**Task:** As part of a science unit on environments, students are exploring the question of what impact natural or man-made disasters have on different environments. Small groups of students are assigned specific United States environments and an actual disaster that impacted the area. Each small group will prepare a report on the disaster and its impact on the environment. All reports will be combined into a class book that will be placed in the library media center. One group of students has been assigned the topic of Alaska and oil spills.

**Research Question:** Oil and the environment – can they get along? Exploring the impact of oil in Alaska.

**Content Area(s):** Science, Learning Resources and Information Technology

**Content Standard(s):**

**Science**

3. Students will understand that all organisms in the biosphere are linked to each other and to their physical environments by the transfer or transformation of matter and energy.

**Learning Resources and Information Technology**

2. Students will apply principles of organized information systems to learning endeavors.
3. Students will demonstrate a command of information skills and strategies to locate and use effectively print, non-print and/or electronic resources to solve problems, conduct research and pursue personal interests.

**iCONN Database:** *Kids InfoBits*

**Search Strategy:**

1. Click on *Kids InfoBits*
2. Type **Oil Spills** in the search box and click on *Search*.
3. Click on *View* for a list documents. Documents are grouped by type into the following tabs: Reference, Magazines, Newspapers, Maps, Flags & Seals, Charts & Graphs, or Images. Click on the *labeled tab* to choose the type of document you wish to see. “Grayed out” tabs indicate that no documents were found in that category.
4. Click on the title of an article in the list to read an article.

**OR**

1. Click on *Kids InfoBits*
2. Type **Oil Spills** in the search box and click on *Search*.
3. Click on *See Also* for a list broader, narrower and related terms.
4. Click on *View* under the subdivision titled “**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, 1989**” for a list of articles about the 1989 oil spill.
5. Click on the title of an article in the list to read an article.

**Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:**

**Search Strategy:**

1. Click on *InfoTrac Junior Edition* and click on *Advanced Search*.
2. Select *keyword search* and type **Alaska and oil and spill** in the search box.
3. Click on the box labeled “search for full text articles only,” then click on *Find*.
4. Click on *Check Out* to read an article.