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Activities

A Disastrous Spill

Name: _____ Date: _____

Some accidents have disastrous, long-lasting consequences. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker ran aground in Alaska, spilling nearly eleven million gallons of crude oil. The spill contaminated beaches, killed wildlife, and ruined habitat. More than twenty years later, the region still hasn't fully recovered. You'll find out more about the disaster in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Go to NOAA's Prince William's Oily Mess. Watch the slideshow from the oil spill. Read the info on the Welcome page. Answer Workspace question 1.
- Click the link to the Oil Spill Trajectory Model. Watch the animation, then answer question 2.
- Find out more about the Infamous Exxon Valdez. Read the description of the disaster, then answer question 3.
- Has the region recovered from the disaster? The answer is not so simple. Go to Remaining Impacts of the Spill. Read the info, then click to enlarge the three pictures on the page. Answer question 4 and 5.
- Read this Planet Diary journal entry about recovery from the spill. Answer the last question.
- Visit the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Click the *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill: Have We Recovered?* video at the lower right and watch this thoughtful program.

Workspace

1. What do the photos show about how the oil spill affected wildlife and beaches along Alaska's coast?

2. What does the animation show about how the oil spread across Prince William Sound?

3. Why was the Exxon Valdez traveling outside the normal shipping lanes in Prince William Sound?

4. What evidence exists that the region has recovered, at least partially?

5. What evidence shows the region still has not fully recovered?

6. Explain why it's taking so long for the beaches of Prince William Sound to recover from the disaster.

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