Clean It Up!

How does oil spread? Which methods work best when cleaning up an oil spill? Test different materials to find out!

1. **Observe what happens when the oil is added to your tub.**

    a. What happens when it's first added?

    b. What do you notice after a few minutes?

    c. Where is the oil in your tub?

2. **Review the different cleanup methods:**

    Booms—long, floating barriers, similar to pool noodles. They stop the oil from spreading.
    Skimmers—machines that scoop up the oil from the water's surface. They work best in calm waters.
    Dispersants—chemicals that are sprayed onto the water to break up oil slicks into smaller droplets. They work like liquid soap.
    Sorbents—materials that absorb oil from the surface of the water. They are best used in small spills or to clean up final traces of oil.

3. **Work with a partner to test the materials as you clean up the oil in your tub. Record your observations and results in the table on the next page.**

Cleanup Method	Example	Observations and Results
Boom	Pipe cleaner	
	Straw	
Skimmer	Spoon	
	Syringe or eyedropper	
Dispersant	Dish soap	
Sorbent	Cotton swab	
	Cotton ball	
	Sponge	
	Paper towel	
Other	Feather	