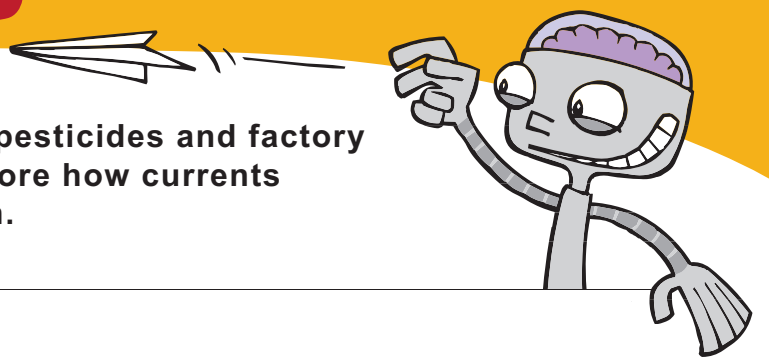
SPILL SPREAD



Ocean currents carry oil spills, sewage, pesticides and factory waste far beyond where they begin. Explore how currents spread all kinds of pollution in the ocean.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Clear, shallow tray or salad container (1½" to 2" deep)
- Water
- 2 rocks (about ¼ the size of a brick) or upside down coffee cups
- Measuring cup for pouring water
- Food coloring (blue, red, yellow, green)
- One large ice cube or several small ones
- Newspaper

WHAT TO DO

1. Cover your work surface with newspaper. Fill the tray or container with water 1" deep. Place your rocks or cups in the water (not touching each other). They are the "continents" in your experimental "ocean."

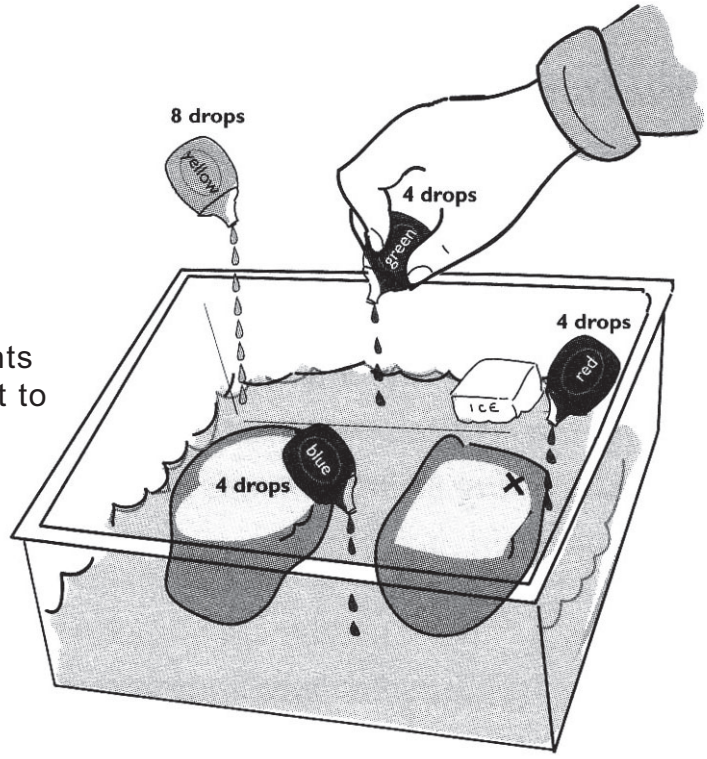
ACTIVITY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE (PAGE 1 OF 2)

This activity was modified and adapted from the *Ocean Currents* Teacher's Guide published by LHS Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS).

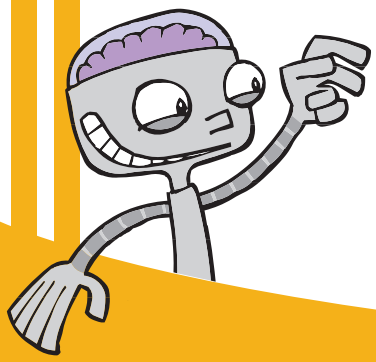
SPILL SPREAD (ACTIVITY CONTINUED)

2 Add the ice to the water first. Then, add the drops of food coloring to the water, as shown in this picture.

The drops are the different sources of "pollution." As the ice melts, changes in the water temperature will create currents that spread this pollution. Be careful not to jiggle or blow on your tray.



3 Which part of your ocean ended up with the least pollution? Which part ended up with the most pollution? Which pollution spread the farthest? How did the continents affect the currents and the spread of pollution?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill travelled nearly 500 miles from its start.

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