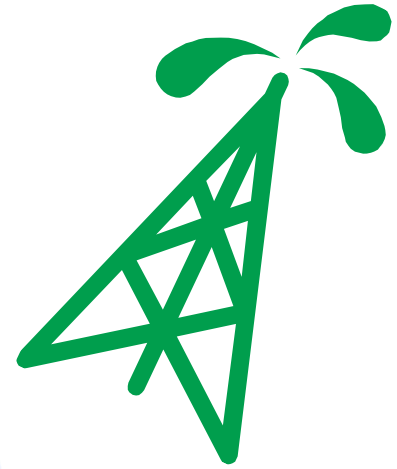
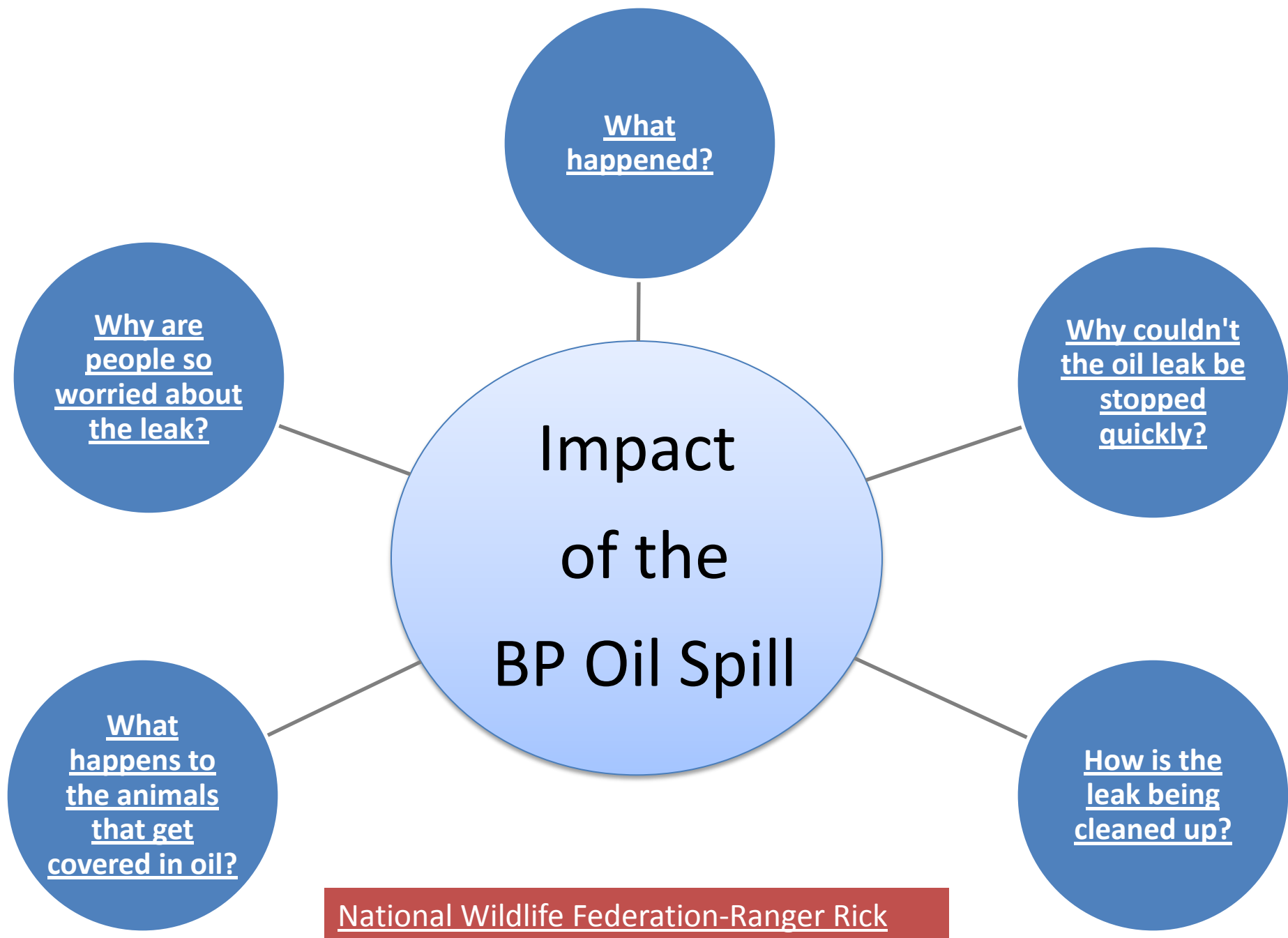


The BP Oil Spill In The Gulf of Mexico April 20, 2010



Maddie
Mrs. Branin
5th grade



National Wildlife Federation-Ranger Rick

What happened?

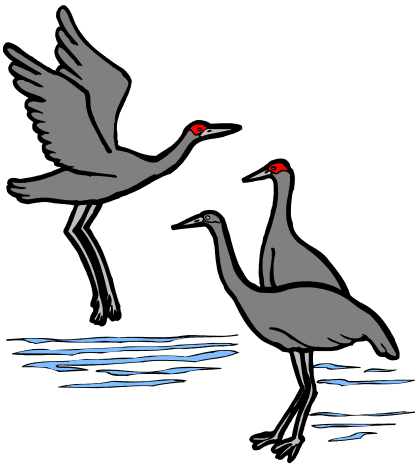


What really happened? Well, hundreds of wells dig deep into the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico and it pumps it up to the surface for us to use. There was a giant ship that was carrying oil and it was damaged. No one really knew that it was damaged so as the ship was floating over the Gulf of Mexico, it was pumping oil through the ground up to the ship when the ship finally resulted into a fire and as the ship sunk, the oil well that was pumping the oil up to the surface broke and no one had the single idea how to fix it.

Why are people so worried about the leak?



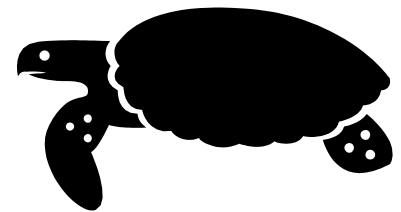
This oil that the well was producing was coming out as a thick, dark, sticky, liquid. Many people were not fond of this oil because it had a strong odor. It was coming out as dark clouds of oil and people had no idea what was happening to the living things down under. Millions of gallons were going in to water and up to the surface. Later it spread out to the coast and it was affecting many fishers jobs.



What happens to the animals that get covered in oil?

When birds or other animals get oil on their feathers or fur it can change that animals' life forever. They have to go through hours, days, maybe even months to get all of the oil off of them. They could die if the oil is ingested.

When under-water mammals come up to the surface to breathe, they come up to harsh chemicals and oil being in the water.





How is the oil being cleaned up?

1. **Chemical Dispersants**
 - Many chemicals are being added to the oil to make it turn in to smaller pieces and so that it can be sucked up by an oil vacuum.
2. **Skimming**
 - Boats are trying to skim or suck up oil from the Gulf of Mexico.
3. **Burning**
 - Some oil in the spill can be burned to disappear off the water's surface.
4. **Separating**
 - Some companies in big boats are trying to separate all of the oil from the ocean sucked up and trying to be put back into the well.



Why couldn't the oil be stopped?

There is a big well at the bottom of the ocean, specially designed to stop oil flow from harming the ocean like it is now, but I wasn't working well.

They tried many different tactics to stop the flow. Finally, on July 15, 2010, they plugged a huge cap in the valve to stop the flow of the oil.

Many workers were trying to fix this.



Do you have an opinion?

The BP Gulf Oil Spill Blog

