

NOTE—This assignment must be handwritten on a sheet of notebook paper or handwritten on a printed copy of this paper. Write your name at the top.

Typed assignments will be a zero

“Dark Waters Ahead” a Georgia Outdoors Production

Summary

[Click here for "Dark Waters Ahead" video](#)

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill disaster of 2010 is one of the worst oil spills in history. It ravaged the economy and the wildlife of not only the Gulf Coast states, but also that of the entire country. It is important to learn from the mistakes of the oil spill to prevent similar disasters in the future.

“Dark Waters Ahead” a Georgia Outdoors Production, explores the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill disaster from the shores of Alabama. Host Sharon Collins takes the viewer on a first-hand look at what the disaster means for the people who live and work in the Gulf as well as the wildlife it destroyed. “Dark Waters Ahead” proves that all things in nature are truly connected, from the hermit crabs on the beach of Alabama to the fisherman on the Georgian coastline.

Video Questions (2 pts each)

1. Where do the majority of the fish and shrimp harvested by the United States come from?
2. What happened on April 20th, 2010?
3. _____ % of oyster reefs have declined worldwide.
4. What function do oysters have in the ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico?
5. The reef off Skidaway Island hugs the marsh. It stops _____ and protects the _____.
6. What tiny organisms have the ability to break down petroleum and other forms of oil?
7. If oil were to enter a marsh, what is one proposed suggestion that may allow the overall marsh to be saved from destruction?
8. Migratory birds travel far distances. Transmitters show that these birds travel thousands of miles to the _____ to nest then travel _____ in the winter.
9. Birds those are native to northern states like New York and Massachusetts often fly south for the winter. Where do they generally fly to and feed during the winter months?
10. What are people doing to clean up the oil once it washes up on the shore?
11. What happens to the oil if it is not immediately cleaned off the beach?

12. What happens to small animals that are trapped in the oil and cannot escape?
13. What do people who live in fishing communities believe will happen if the oil washes up on their shores?
14. The government set up hundreds of miles of oil boom to prevent the oil from traveling across the surface onto the beaches. However, the majority of the oil from the oil spill was below the surface. What organism suffered because the oil boom did not prevent the movement of oil beneath the surface?
15. What are researchers afraid will replace oxygen in contaminated water and create dead-zones across the region for organisms that need oxygen to survive?
16. Georgia is connected to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the _____
_____. One of the most powerful _____ in the world.
17. The Gulf Stream is such a major ocean current it has an impact on the _____
18. What are scientists afraid will happen if the Gulf Stream is contaminated by the oil spill?
19. What is "Dark Water" referring to?

Critical Thinking Questions (5 pts each)

***** Questions must be answered in at least 3 – 5 complete sentences *****

1. If fish habitats in the Gulf of Mexico were destroyed, how would that impact terrestrial (on land) ecosystems?
2. Fishermen who were out of work because of the oil spill lined up in hopes of receiving jobs in the cleanup effort. However, they fear that even when all the oil is cleaned up the ecosystem will take decades to fully recover. Do you think the federal government should play a role in providing ongoing aid to families and communities that depended on the fishing industry?

What do you think the role (if any) of BP (British Petroleum) should be?

3. In a desperate attempt to break up the oil, the federal government dumped chemical dispersant in the Gulf of Mexico. However, it is known that these chemicals are toxic to living creatures. Was this a good idea? Do the gains of breaking up the oil outweigh the potential destruction that the chemicals have on living organisms?
4. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster of 2010 is one of the worst in history. Do you think that offshore drilling is worth the risk of a catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? Why or why not?