

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Feather Failure

## Procedure

- 1. Communicate** Work with a partner. Use the chart to record your observations and measurements.

Dry	Oily

- 2. Observe** Examine a feather. Smooth it with your fingers. Wave it in the air. Record your observations.
- 3. Measure** Use a balance to find the mass of the feather. Record the mass.
- 4. Experiment** Smooth the feather. With a dropper, sprinkle several drops of water on the feather. Record your observations.
- 5. Use Models** Put on disposable gloves. Model what can happen to a sea bird when there is an ocean oil spill. Pour baby oil into an aluminum pan. Dip the feather into the oil. Spread the oil over the entire feather.
- 6.** Using the oily feather, repeat steps 2, 3, and 4.

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## Conclusion

1. **Infer** What features of the dry feather might help a bird survive?

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2. **Hypothesize** How did the oil affect the feather? How might an oil spill affect the sea bird population in the area of the spill?

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## Experiment

### Guided Inquiry

Design an experiment to find out how to remove the oil from the feather. Get permission from your teacher to carry out your experiment. **Compare** your results with classmates.