

Feather Failure

Procedure

1. **Communicate** Work with a partner. Record your observations in the chart below.

Dry	Oily

2. **Observe** Examine a dry feather. Smooth it with your fingers. Wave it in the air. Record your observations in your chart.
3. **Measure** Use a balance to find the mass of the feather. Record the mass in your chart.
4. **Experiment** Smooth the feather. With a dropper, sprinkle several drops of water on the feather. Record your observations in your chart.
5. Put on disposable gloves. 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.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

- 1. Use Models** What features of the dry feather might help a bird survive?

- 2. Hypothesize** How did the oil affect the feather? How might an oil spill affect the bird population of an ecosystem?

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment Make a plan to find out how to remove the oil from bird feathers. Choose your materials and get permission from your teacher to carry out your plan. Share your results.

