



**6. Why are birds particularly threatened by the spill?**

**7. How will this oil spill affect fisherman?**

**8. How many offshore oil rigs are currently in operation in the Gulf of Mexico?**

**9. What was the Exxon Valdez?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. What surprises you most about this story? What did you learn about the oil industry?**

**2. Following the spill, White House senior advisor David Axelrod said that all new offshore drilling efforts will be suspended until the slick has been cleaned up and its cause has been thoroughly investigated; do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?**

**3. Does it surprise you that it is so hard to clean up the oil? Can you think of new ways to clean up the oil?**

**4. Should the Louisiana fisherman sue BP? Why or why not?**

**5. Who should be held responsible for the oil spill and clean up?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.