

Student Discussion Worksheet

Directions: Read the *Science News* article "[The Deepwater Horizon oil spill ruined long-term shore stability](#)" and answer the questions below as directed by your teacher. A version of the article, "Shores still reeling from 2010 oil spill," appears in the March 25, 2023 issue of *Science News*.

Oily erosion

1. What disaster is referenced in the article? In one sentence, describe what happened.
2. Discuss the impact of the Deepwater Horizon disaster on the local ecosystem and the surrounding region. Name both short-term and long-term effects on the ecosystem as a result of the disaster.
3. How did the disaster drive erosion in the area? How long did it take scientists to understand the impact? Explain what the researchers measured and the timeline.

Impacts of erosion on humans

4. Erosion is a natural phenomenon that occurs over time. Give an example of natural erosion that you have seen or read about. What do you think caused the erosion in your example?
5. Search the [Science News](#) or [Science News Explores](#) archives to find a specific example of a time when erosion impacted humans. Explain the impact. What were the short-term and long-term effects of your example? Provide a link to the story.

How humans increase and decrease erosion

6. Name some ways humans increase or decrease erosion compared with what would happen naturally. Are those influences positive, negative or both?

7. Discuss an example of human-caused erosion that has happened near you. How did humans contribute to erosion in your example?

8. What were some short-term and long-term effects of your example?

9. Discuss possible solutions to this human-caused erosion that has created a problem in your local area. How could you go about engineering a potential solution to control the erosion?



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