



**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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**VISITORS AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE GET HANDS-ON DEMO  
OF THE SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES OF THE BP OIL SPILL IN THE GULF**

**Philadelphia, PA, August 2, 2010** -- The BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has hit the 100-day mark. As the Gulf Coast works to rebuild, in recent weeks THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE has begun offering visitors of all ages a powerful hands-on demonstration of the cleanup methods, containment efforts and engineering attempts surrounding the spill.

The demonstration, held weekdays in the Atrium, has proven highly popular with visitors. Hands-on Franklin science interpreters explain the scientific challenges via clear bucket of water representing the Gulf of Mexico. Visitors learn:

- How quickly a slick is created when a drop of motor oil enters the water.
- The effect of waves, hurricane winds and water currents on the slick through a simulation – as well as the effect on ocean life, land animals and the Gulf habitat.
- The challenges of clean-up to wildlife, such as birds. Through a demonstration of a feather dipped in oil, visitors can get hands-on to clean the feather with dish detergent – and learn more about the real-life applications of this procedure.
- Additionally, a Power Point slide show runs throughout the day on a large screen in the Atrium - summarizing the up-to-date events relating to the spill.

Visitors can also learn more about the future of Earth in the all-new *Changing Earth* exhibit at The Franklin Institute. This interactive exhibit explores how our response to Earth's constant changes will impact our future. Visitors are invited to calculate their own carbon footprint, find solutions to reduce carbon emissions, explore seismographs of recent earthquakes, and experiment to see how dams and water volume affect river flow and erosion. Each experience provides insights into repercussions that may result from our responses to changes—natural or manmade.

**About The Franklin Institute**

Founded in honor of America's first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. It is dedicated to creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. For more information, please visit [www.fi.edu](http://www.fi.edu).

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