

Name: _____

Date: _____

'Offshore Interactive' Student Activity (<http://offshore-interactive.com/>)
(adapted from the Offshore Study Guide created by Claudia Sicondolfo)

Introduction

“Offshore is an innovative interactive web documentary that explores the next chapter of oil exploration, taking viewers hundreds of miles Offshore, and thousands of feet below the ocean floor where the hazards are immense, but the profits are bigger, and where the consequences of something going wrong are catastrophic. Using a virtual Offshore rig...as the central interface, viewers are invited on a first person journey through a nightmarish abandoned rig, damaged and deserted save for a series of ‘hotspots’ - transition points - which propel participants into the full screen world of oil, technology, money and environmental disasters. Beginning with stories from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Offshore creates a deeply immersive experience that subtly raises questions about the consequences of our continued dependence on oil”. (from the Offshore Study Guide - <http://goo.gl/9BYkTt>)



Pre-Game

1. Read the “BP Horizon Spill Fact Sheet” (Appendix B) from the Offshore Interactive Study Guide (<http://goo.gl/9BYkTt> - pp.18-19). Please remember that many of the “facts” presented in this sheet “remain debated by various environmental, economical, political, and oil industry groups”.
2. View the Offshore trailer (<https://vimeo.com/45920075>) and a commercial from the oil company BP about the Deepwater Horizon spill cleanup efforts (<https://goo.gl/jANcgt>). What differences do you notice about the two messages?

3. Look over the “Glossary of Terms” from the Study Guide to familiarize yourself with some of the keywords from Offshore (pp.11-14).

During the Game

Start exploring Offshore Interactive (<http://offshore-interactive.com/>). As you work through the various sections, complete the questions below. You can click on the icon entitled “MAP” in the top-right corner anytime you are exploring the architecture to reorient yourself or if the interactive freezes.

Helicopter (see file folder on the seat)

1. In what body of water is the Spartan 208 located? What happened to the Spartan 208? What is your role?

Flight Deck (Landing Pad)

2. In the chapter "Hurricane Alley," there is a connection made between global warming and our dependency on increasing oil production. Why do you think this connection between industry and climate was made? How are these two conditions interrelated?

Lower Platform

3. On the Lower Platform of the Rig, we meet Mr. Floyd. What does Mr. Floyd tell us about his history with the oil industry in America? Why do you think his story was included in this documentary?

Boat Deck

4. Describe some of the effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon spill on the fish population.

Terminus

5. In the chapter "The Well From Hell: Golden Rules of Safety," lawyer Tony Buzbee gives us his interpretation of the corporate BP culture. He states "Most of the people at BP are bonused not on safety, but on production. ... There's a deep embedded disregard for safety in that company." Based on what you saw in the documentary, do you agree or disagree with Mr. Buzbee? Why or why not?

6. In the chapters “The Well From Hell: A Simple Case” and “The Well From Hell: Justice,” lawyer Tony Buzbee discusses the legal ruling following BP’s court case. Do you think the resulting settlement serves “Justice”?

7. Click through the “Survivors” file folder in the Terminus. Why is it important to include the names and photographs of some of these survivors in this way? Why do you think only some of the information from their incident reports is available to you?

Control Room

8. In the Control Room, we meet author and research Michael Klare. Mr. Klare states assertively in the chapter “Extreme Oil: Disappearing Fields,” that “75% of the oil in the [easy oil] fields will disappear over the next 25 years.” Where does that leave us in our future? Think about how this situation will influence: our global economies; our everyday habits; and the offshore oil industry.

9. In the Control Room, we can go through a filing folder called “Rig Data.” What do you learn about certain oil rigs when you look through this content?

Theatre

10. Open the Red Diary in the Theatre. Do you think this is a real or fictional journal? Does it matter?

Submersible Hangar

11. Watch the “Rig Requiem” in the Submersible Hangar, in the chapter “On The Water.” What is a requiem? Why was it used in this way in this documentary?

Chem Storage

12. What are some of the human health effects reported in the area after the spill?

13. What effect has the spill had on the killifish population?

Engine Room

14. What motivated people like Mr. Jack to work in the harsh conditions of the oil rigs?

Post-Game Extension Activity (optional)

Complete the “Appendix E - Oil Leaks” organizer from the Study Guide (p.22 - <http://goo.gl/9BYkTt>). Choose one of the case studies (Brazil, Ghana, Alaska) from the Global link at the bottom of the screen and compare it to one of the Canadian case studies listed:

- Canadian Tar Sands
- Proposed Nova Scotia Petrofac deepwater offshore rig
- Newfoundland and Labrador: North Amethyst Field
- Newfoundland and Labrador: South White Rose Field
- Newfoundland and Labrador: West White Rose Field