

DISASTER IN GALICIA

1 Read the text and circle the best title.

- a. Ship Sinks Near Galicia
- b. Oil Disaster Off Galician Coast
- c. Storm Causes Ship to Sink

In November of 2002, the oil tanker *Prestige* broke in two off the Galician coast, to the north-west of Spain, leading to one of the worst environmental disasters Spain has experienced. The ship, which was carrying more than 70,000 tons of oil, started to have problems when it was caught in a terrible storm. The strong waves broke a hole in the side of the ship and, despite attempts to avoid the disaster, a large amount of oil was released into the sea.

Westerly winds blew a large amount of this oil onto the Galician beaches and rocks, destroying wildlife and one of the most beautiful parts on the European coastline. Fishing also had to be completely suspended in the area, meaning many local people lost their means of earning money. After a few days floating helplessly at sea, the *Prestige* sank, taking to the bottom with it most of its deadly cargo, the long-term consequences of which are not yet known.

Thousands of local people helped clean the more than 140 beaches affected along the “Coast of Death” by removing the oil and taking affected sea birds to have the oil removed from their feathers. Only time will tell if this natural paradise will return to its previous state.

2 Reread and answer the questions.

1. Into how many parts did the ship break?
two
2. How much oil was the ship carrying?

3. What caused the ship to have problems?

4. What did the waves do to the ship?

5. What was released into the sea?

6. From which direction did the winds blow?

7. What happened to the fishing?

8. What happened after a few days?

> **Write**

3 Write your opinion of one of these statements. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- a. Oil is the biggest cause of environmental disasters.
- b. Humans are responsible for most forest fires.

I think oil is the biggest cause of environmental problems for more than one reason. First, when disasters like the Prestige happen ...

