Oil Through the Ages

http://www.theglobalist.com/getarticle.aspx?StoryId=6442

Online Resources

1. The multimedia section of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' website has a number of videos and podcasts of the groups' meetings, oil outlook and global summits. Looking over such features will provide individuals will a well-informed perspective on how one of the most influential international energy organizations operates and influences forms public opinion.

   http://www.opec.org/home/Multimedia/index.htm

2. Howard Stableford, in conjunction with the BBC, hosted a radio broadcast that "discovers how Jurassic plankton ends up in our petrol tanks, why oil dominates world politics and what we might do when it starts to run out." You can listen to the program here:

   http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/crudefacts.shtml

3. Oil Change International is a non-profit organization that has become known for its investigative research, communication campaigns, organizing and media messaging on the current state of global energy policy. They operate a blog-like website that includes posts on the price of oil, corporate energy interests and the environmental impact of the industry.

   http://priceofoil.org/

4. The Paleontological Research Institute provides a great interactive map feature to learn about three very important sites in the United States that were crucial to the development and production of oil in the country.

   http://www.priweb.org/ed/pgws/history/history_home.html

5. The U.S. Energy Information Administration — in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy — provides information on global and individual country consumption, production, imports and exports of oil. In addition to basic statistics and international rankings, interactive maps and country profiles provide extra background material on the current state of global energy.

   http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/country/index.cfm

6. The National Center for Policy Analysis has a briefing paper that asks the question: Are we running out of oil? It explores not only the history of the oil industry (both globally and in the United States) but also introduces the role of new technology and raises questions on the long-term sustainability of the fossil fuel. The feature is available here:

   http://www.ncpa.org/pub/bg/bg159/

7. Back in 2004, a National Geographic reporter sat down with an agricultural engineering professor — Yuanhui Zhang — from the University of Illinois to ask him about his conversion of pig manure into oil. Not only does this article provide a historical perspective on the rising price of crude, but it also looks at this new project and how it has the potential to change the face of energy production.

   http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/07/0701_040702_pigoil.html

8. CNN's has a webpage on the oil production and refining process. It includes videos, recent stories and links to related science and technology features on energy issues impacting our world today. You can view the videos and stories here:

   http://topics.cnn.com/topics/oil_production_and_refining

9. The U.S. Geological Survey has a feature on the environmental impact of oil wells as part of its toxic substances hydrology program. This feature on "produced water" — which is water with undesirable quality that results from pumping oil and gas out of the ground — provides relevant background information on the issue and a number of links on other problems that result from the oil production process.

   http://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/ph20.html

10. The Offshore Oil and Gas Environment Forum — maintained by the United Nations Environment Program — releases information regarding environmental issues as they relate to the offshore oil and gas industry. The website has regional forums, information about emissions, recent news links and relevant reports. It's a one stop shop for the environmental issues involved with energy production today:

    http://www.oilandgasforum.net/

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