

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Reading HW

HW Wk \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Read and annotate the passage below. Then answer the questions.*

### A Solution for a San Diego Cove's Constant Odor: Bacteria

Depending upon whom you ask, the smell that has troubled La Jolla Cove has been “putrid” or “offensive” for quite a while. Nose-pinching is commonplace. But now, the stench of bird feces coming from the cliffs of the La Jolla Cove has officially become a public health emergency. “Seagulls, pigeons, pelicans, and other animals have fouled the area,” Mayor Bob Filner wrote. “Physical disease and discomfort may result to humans if action is not taken.”

City officials believe they finally have a solution: feces-eating bacteria. Previous plans to power-wash the rocks were blocked by the government in order to protect the environmentally sensitive area. Power-washing could have harmed the area, where birds, seals, sea lions, scuba divers, swimmers, and tourists all congregate. And so, workers applied a solution made up of seven kinds of bacteria that eat the animal feces. The bacterial solution does not run off into the ocean and contaminate it. Finally, the brown rock — for years covered with the growing layer of white bird feces — is again visible.

Overseeing the work were several biologists. They were there to keep an eye on the birds and sea mammals to make sure they were not disturbed. The scientists made sure that nesting birds tending to their chicks were not disturbed and seals and sea lions were monitored for any aggression by the workers. They also stopped work several times when the wind picked up to make sure the bacterial foam did not blow into the ocean.

The pretty cove is home to the area's finest restaurants and most expensive homes. After just a few days, local business owners said they had already noticed an improvement in the odor. Megan Heine, owner of a nearby restaurant, said her restaurant's ocean-side patio no longer smells of wildlife. “I'm surprised how quickly it's working,” she said.

In all, the cliff cleaning will cost the city about \$50,000, but will keep tourists flooding into La Jolla's art galleries, restaurants and hotels, officials said. And, residents are happy that officials have found an environmentally friendly way for both humans and wildlife to enjoy the cliffs.

- (RST.9-10.1) According to the passage, why caused La Jolla Cove to be “putrid”?
  - Nesting birds and their chicks are extremely smelly.
  - Birds and other animals excreted waste that is extremely smelly.
  - Rivers and coves are always naturally smelly.
  - Pollution and trash from local residents have caused the smell.
- (RST.9-10.4) As it is used in the second paragraph, the term *congregate* means:
  - Reproduce
  - Scatter
  - Evade
  - Gather
- (RST.9-10.1) According to the passage, why did city officials choose to use bacteria instead of other methods to clean the cliffs?
  - There were no other methods to clean the cliffs.
  - Using bacteria was the cheapest method to clean the cliffs.
  - The feces-eating bacteria were used as part of a scientific experiment.
  - State and federal regulations blocked other options because they could have harmed the wildlife.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

4. (RST.9-10.1) The author’s purpose in including the quote from Megan Heine in the fourth paragraph is to:
- a. Point out how the smell of the cliffs had impacted local businesses.
  - b. Show the disapproval of using bacteria to clean the cliffs by local residents.
  - c. Promote tourism so that the city can pay for the cleaning of the cliffs.
  - d. Explain how much the wildlife is loved by the local residents.

5. (RST.9-10.2) Describe the appearance and smell of the cliffs before the bacterial treatment compared to after the bacterial treatment.

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6. (RST.9-10.1) What was the purpose of having the biologists oversee the workers spraying the cliffs?

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*Adapted from the article, “A Solution for a San Diego Cove’s Constant Odor: Bacteria” by Ian Lovett for The New York Times, published on June 21, 2013.*

