

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 plagued La Jolla Cove has been “putrid,” “noxious” or “like the East River used to smell,” for quite a while. Nose-pinching is commonplace. But now, the stench of bird feces coming from the cliffs has become, officially speaking, a public health emergency. “Cormorants, gulls, pigeons, pelicans and other animals have fouled the area,” Mayor Bob Filner wrote last month in a memo, declaring a state of emergency. “Physical disease and discomfort may result to humans if emergency action is not taken.”

City officials believe they finally have a solution: feces-eating bacteria. And so, early each morning, workers lowered themselves onto the rocks with ropes and applied a solution made up of seven kinds of bacteria that digest animal feces. Previous plans to power-wash the rocks had been blocked by state and federal regulations protecting the environmentally sensitive stretch of coastline in northern San Diego, where seals, sea lions, scuba divers, swimmers, tourists, and an array of birds all congregate. The bacterial solution, city officials insisted, would not run off into the ocean.

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. On the section of cliff that has been cleaned this week, the brown rock — for years covered with the growing layer of white feces — is again visible. Megan Heine, owner of a nearby restaurant, said her restaurant's patio, which offers views of the ocean, no longer smells of wildlife. “I'm surprised how quickly it's working. We're just hoping the effect will last,” 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. The mayor has indicated that he will repeat the process if the stench continues to linger.

Since the cliffs were closed off to visitors several years ago, the wildlife had taken over. While residents were happy to see the wildlife return, they were not expecting the stench from their feces. Now, however, residents are happy that officials have found an environmentally friendly way for both humans and wildlife to enjoy the cliffs.

1. (RST.9-10.1) According to the passage, why caused La Jolla Cove to be “putrid”?
 - a. Nesting birds and their chicks are extremely smelly.
 - b. Birds and other animals excreted waste that is extremely smelly.
 - c. Rivers and coves are always naturally smelly.
 - d. Pollution and trash from local residents have caused the smell.

