

PET Listening - To Clean A River

Instructions: listen to the report on the Los Angeles River and answer the questions True or False



1. The Los Angeles River is a natural water passage
2. The rubbish quantity has risen as a result of winter storms.
3. Carol Henning says her memory of the river was people having car races in the LA River
4. The River is not look at anymore as part of the city's attraction.
5. This is the 24th annual LA River clean-up
6. There are food store carts, building materials and floor coverings.
7. The river is filled mainly with plastic bags.
8. The River is, once again, starting to look like a river

ANSWERS AND TRANSCRIPT

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. T

To Clean A River

The Los Angeles River is a man-made water passage. It collects dirty water from storm drains. Sadly, it has become a place where much of the city's waste collects. But as Katherine Cole reports, the river is being cleaned up thanks to volunteers.

Thousands of volunteers appeared on a recent weekend to remove the waste from the Los Angeles River. The amount of trash has been growing as a result of winter rain storms.

Engineers added a concrete lining to the bottom of the waterway in the 1930s after years of periodic flooding. Volunteer Carol Henning says it now looks like a river again, at least in some places.

"Well, it's beginning to look a little better. My memory of the river was people having drag races in the LA River on the cement bottom."

Part of the LA River was used for filming a car race in the 1978 movie, "Grease." Today parts of the river have been turned into a recreation area. There are plants growing along the water, and some of the birds, fish and other wildlife have returned.

Los Angeles poet Lewis McAdams launched the group Friends of the LA River in 1986. He says the waterway is no longer considered the city's ugly back yard.

“Now it is increasingly the front yard of the city. People don’t ignore it. More and more people come down. This is the 24th annual LA River clean-up. We figure at this point we have cleaned up and taken out about a million pounds (450,000 kilograms) of trash out of the LA River.”

Some objects found in the clean-up surprise the volunteer clean-up crew. John Dubler is a volunteer from the Disney Company.

“We find snack bags and clothing. It is amazing what you see. Little CDs.”

There are food store carts, building materials and floor coverings.

Volunteer Jack Lebic says there is one very common object.

“Tons and tons of plastic bags. I think that is the number one. And they are buried underneath here.”

It is a yearly effort that is paying off -- with a river that is, once again, starting to look like a river.