An Engineered Detour

C1 Advanced · Places · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. _____ riverside rooms became nearly unusable in the summer of eighteen fifty eight, as the Thames's stench overwhelmed the capital.
2. The heat did more than _____ an odour, exposing a city whose drains emptied untreated waste directly into the river.
3. _____ reportedly soaked curtains in chloride of lime, treating an engineering failure as a problem of atmosphere.
4. Engineer Joseph _____ proposed a solution that began not with cleaning the river, but with changing where the waste went.
5. Sewers at different elevations _____ sewage and carried it eastward, beyond the densely inhabited centre.
6. Carefully _____ gradients moved much of the flow by gravity, while pumping stations lifted sewage where the ground fell too gently.
7. Brick conduits, some large enough for _____ crews, ran beneath streets as new embankments reshaped the river's edge.
8. Those _____ did more than provide promenades, concealing major sewers while reclaiming land from the river.
9. _____ began in eighteen fifty nine, and the system emerged in stages rather than as a single dramatic cure.
10. Cholera had begun to recede before the works were _____, so the network cannot be credited with an instant victory over disease.
11. Yet by redirecting waste and making its journey governable, Bazalgette transformed an invisible habit into durable urban _____.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. Parliament's 2. intensify 3. Parliamentarians 4. Bazalgette 5. intercepted 6. calculated 7. maintenance 8. embankments 9. Construction 10. complete 11. infrastructure

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Parliament's riverside rooms became nearly unusable in the summer of eighteen fifty eight, as the Thames's stench overwhelmed the capital.
2. The heat did more than intensify an odour, exposing a city whose drains emptied untreated waste directly into the river.
3. Parliamentarians reportedly soaked curtains in chloride of lime, treating an engineering failure as a problem of atmosphere.
4. Engineer Joseph Bazalgette proposed a solution that began not with cleaning the river, but with changing where the waste went.
5. Sewers at different elevations intercepted sewage and carried it eastward, beyond the densely inhabited centre.
6. Carefully calculated gradients moved much of the flow by gravity, while pumping stations lifted sewage where the ground fell too gently.
7. Brick conduits, some large enough for maintenance crews, ran beneath streets as new embankments reshaped the river's edge.
8. Those embankments did more than provide promenades, concealing major sewers while reclaiming land from the river.
9. Construction began in eighteen fifty nine, and the system emerged in stages rather than as a single dramatic cure.
10. Cholera had begun to recede before the works were complete, so the network cannot be credited with an instant victory over disease.
11. Yet by redirecting waste and making its journey governable, Bazalgette transformed an invisible habit into durable urban infrastructure.

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