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# Paired Texts Vocabulary

## "The Great Bird Poop Disaster"

1. **accumulate** (uh-KY00-myuh-leyt) *verb*; To accumulate is to collect, gather, or let pile up. For example, a stamp collector accumulates stamps.
2. **besiege** (bih-SEEJ) *verb*; A siege (seej) is a military operation in which soldiers surround a place to force the people there to surrender. The verb *besiege* means "to lay siege to," as in, "The army besieged the castle." *Besiege* is also used in nonmilitary situations when something surrounds or overwhelms something else in an aggressive way. A group of screaming fans might besiege Ed Sheeran's tour bus after a concert.
3. **corrosive** (kuh-ROH-siv) *adjective*; The verb *corrode* (kuh-ROHD) means "to gradually eat or wear away, or to be gradually weakened or destroyed." *Corrode* is often used to describe wearing away through a chemical process, such as rusting, as in: "A bicycle left outside for a long time will corrode." But *corrode* can describe any kind of gradual wearing away.  
  
Something that is corrosive has the power to corrode: It gradually weakens or destroys something. Acid is a corrosive substance. Dishonesty has a corrosive effect on friendship.
4. **deluge** (DEL-yooj) *noun or verb*; A deluge is an overwhelming number or amount of something. *Deluge* is often used to refer to an overwhelming amount of water, such as a drenching rain. For example, a deluge might flood a soccer field. But *deluge* can be used to describe an overwhelming number or amount of anything. If your phone is turned off for a week, you might find a deluge of text messages when you turn it back on.  
  
As a verb, *deluge* means "to flood with water" or "to overwhelm." You could say that the soccer field was deluged with rain or that you were deluged with text messages.
5. **diligent** (DIL-i-juhnt) *adjective*; Someone who is diligent works very hard at a task. He or she is careful, thorough, and persistent in an effort to achieve something.
6. **infrastructure** (IN-fruh-struhk-cher) *noun*; An infrastructure is the foundation or basic framework of something. A building's infrastructure is what keeps it standing—the walls, the foundation beneath the floors, and all the beams overhead. The infrastructure of a country is the collection of equipment and structures that allow it to function—the roads, the bridges, the public water system, and the power lines, for example.

**7. menace (MEHN-is)** *noun or verb*; A menace is someone or something that threatens to cause harm. A bully is a menace to other kids. Air pollution is a menace to our health.

As a verb, *menace* means "to threaten." If a cat is swiping at every dog that walks by, the cat is menacing the dogs in the neighborhood.

**8. thrive (thrihv)** *verb*; To thrive is to grow and develop very well. If you want a plant to thrive, be sure to give it enough water and sunlight. If you want your business to thrive, be sure to make your customers happy!

## **"How to Solve the Problem of Bird Poop"**

**1. avian ecologist (EY-vee-uhn ih-KOL-uh-jihst)** *noun*; The adjective *avian* means "of or relating to birds." Ecology (ih-KOL-uh-jee) is the branch of science that deals with the relationships between living things and their environments. An avian ecologist is a person who studies birds and how they interact with their environment.

**2. humane (hyoo-MEYN)** *adjective*; Someone or something that is humane is kind, gentle, and sympathetic toward animals and people.

**3. implement (IM-pluh-ment)** *verb*; *Implement* means "to perform, carry out, or put into effect." A school principal might announce that on Monday, the cafeteria will implement a new system for throwing away trash.

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**Directions:** Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

# Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

diligent	deluge	accumulate	humane	menace
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1. Three inches of snow have already piled up since the snowplow cleared our street this morning.

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2. The reporter was extremely thorough in her research.

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3. During the power outage, the electric company was overwhelmed with customer phone calls.

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4. That turkey is always chasing people. I'm telling you, that bird is trouble!

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**Directions:** In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

5. When Tia saw the bird exhibit at the zoo, she knew she wanted to become a/an **menace/avian ecologist**.

6. Laura is looking for a **humane/menacing** way to deal with the skunks living under her porch; she doesn't want to harm the skunks, but she doesn't want them to live under her porch either.

7. The students **besieged/implemented** Mr. Morris with demands for an ice cream party.

8. The mayor announced a plan to repair the town's **infrastructure/deluge**, starting with the roads.

9. I thought going to a new school would be really difficult, but I am **thriving/accumulating**.

10. Some **corrosive/diligent** liquid leaked and burned a small hole in the floor.

11. Next year, the state will **implement/thrive** a law that changes the legal driving age to 17.