

Milltown Timeline Activity: Answer Key

Timeline, Page 1:

1st Image (start of timeline):

Before white settlement of the region, the area where the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers meet was an important fishing ground and passage way for the region's American Indian tribes. The Salish-Kootenai-Pend d'Oreille and Flathead tribes used the area for fishing and called it in their native language the "place of big bull trout."

Pictured: An artist's rendering of Native Americans looking toward Hellgate Canyon on the Clark Fork River.

2nd Image (1830s):

Trappers and explorers frequent the area around the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot River.

Pictured: An artist's rendering of early trappers/explorers at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers.

3rd Image (1860):

The construction of the Mullan Road by Lt. John Mullan facilitates the settlement and increased growth of the community of Missoula.

Pictured: Lt. John Mullan.

4th Image (1872):

Future Copper King William A. Clark purchases mining claims in the Butte area.

Pictured: Butte Copper King William A. Clark.

5th Image (1876):

Future Copper King Marcus Daly buys the Alice silver mine in Butte.

Pictured: Butte Copper King Marcus Daly.

6th Image (1880):

Marcus Daly creates the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

Pictured: The Butte Hill.

7th Image (1882):

The Northern Pacific Railroad Co., in partnership with Marcus Daly, creates the Montana Improvement Company, that later became the Big Blackfoot Milling Company.

Pictured: The Big Blackfoot Milling Company, with the accompanying Stimson Dam on the Blackfoot River.

8th Image (1883a):

Facilities for smelting copper are built in Anaconda, due primarily to easy access to water, power and timber.

Pictured: The Anaconda Stack.

9th Image (1883b):

The Northern Pacific Railroad, the first transcontinental railroad linking the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, is completed near Gold Creek, Montana.

Pictured: A Northern Pacific logo on a rail car.

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Timeline, Page 2:

1st Image (1892):

William Clark creates the Western Lumber Company to provide timber for his Butte and Anaconda mining and smelting operations

Pictured: Loggers in action.

2nd Image (1905-1908):

The Milltown Hydroelectric Dam is constructed by William Clark at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. The dam powers his lumber mill, as well as steeltlights and streetcars in Missoula.

Pictured: The completed Milltown Dam.

3rd Image (1908):

The largest flood on record in the Pacific Northwest, as well as other areas in Montana and beyond, sweeps mine tailings from Butte and Anaconda down the Clark Fork River.

Pictured: The flooded Milltown Dam.

4th Image (1909):

Milltown Dam reconstruction efforts last for the rest of the year and stretch into the next.

Pictured: Milltown Dam reconstruction.

5th Image (1955):

Digging begins in Butte at the new Berkeley Pit, bringing open-pit mining to the city.

Pictured: The Berkeley Pit; the photo dates from the 1970s.

6th Image (1976):

Atlantic-Richfield, better known as ARCO, purchases the Anaconda Company, gaining control of its Montana holdings.

Pictured: The Atlantic Richfield [Arco] logo.

7th Image (1980-1983):

The national Superfund environmental cleanup law is passed. As a result, the entire Upper Clark Fork, from Butte to Milltown, becomes nation's largest complex of Superfund sites.

Pictured: The Upper Clark Fork Superfund complex.

8th Image & 9th Images (1996a-b):

A huge ice jam moving down the Blackfoot River threatens to take out the aging Milltown Dam.

Pictured, a: An ice jam damages a bridge; pictured, b: An artist's rendering of a bull trout; this native Montana species, and other fish, were negatively impacted by the dam flush that resulted from the 1996 ice jam.

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Timeline, Page 3:

1st Image (1998):

The Bull Trout, a Montana native species, is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Pictured: A dead bull trout.

2nd Image (2000s):

The utility, efficiency, and safety of the Milltown Dam are questioned. The future removal of the dam is discussed as a potential option.

Pictured: A decayed concrete wall at the Milltown Dam.

3rd Image (2002):

The Montana Power Company sells the Milltown Dam.

Pictured: The Milltown Dam powerhouse, with Montana Power logo, and the logo of the purchaser, Northwestern Energy.

4th Image (2004):

A public campaign advocating the removal of the Milltown Dam, led by the Clark Fork Coalition, sends 10,000 comment postcards from the public to the EPA.

Pictured: A bumper sticker supporting dam removal.

5th Image (2007-2008):

Remediation work begins at the Milltown Dam. Contaminated sediments are removed from the site and shipped by rail to the BP/ARCO Waste Repository near Opportunity, Montana.

Pictured: Milltown sediments are removed from rail cars at the BP-Arco Waste Repository near Opportunity.

6th Image (2008):

With the powerhouse removed, the Milltown Dam is breached, allowing the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers to flow freely for the first time in a century.

Pictured: A channel around the spillway allows water from the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers to flow through the space formerly occupied by the dam powerhouse.

7th Image (2008-2010):

With the Milltown Dam removed, restoration work continues at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers.

Pictured: An artist's rendering of the restored confluence.