

**#39: Superfund Sites**

**name:**

**Go to <http://formontana.net> and then click on picture #22.**

1. Use your Montana Highway Map to find the Ft. Belknap Reservation in north-central Montana. Find the “notch” in the southern border. Which river starts in the notch and then flows eastward?
2. Compare the image to your map. Which river does the Robinson Bridge cross?
3. Look at the image on the computer. On which side of the mountains are the mines? (North? East? South? West?)
4. How was this photo taken?
5. What color are the open-pit mines on the image?
6. What is the purpose of having mining company pay a “reclamation bond”?
7. In 1998 Pegasus forfeited its reclamation bond. What does this mean and why did they do this?
8. What is unfortunate about this situation from the taxpayers’ point of view?
9. Why did the tribes file a lawsuit against the government?

**Go back to <http://formontana.net> and then click on picture # 13.**

15. How did the soils of East Helena get contaminated with lead?

16. The EPA designated the town of East Helena as a Superfund site. What is the EPA?

8. Why do these sites need to be cleaned up?

17. How did the lead get into the children's blood?

18. Explain how the problem of contaminated soils was fixed.

**Go to <http://formontana.net> and then click on picture # 59.**

19. What was the purpose of the smelter in East Helena?

20. The ore was "roasted" to form "sinter". What was the purpose of the roasting?

21. Why did the sinter have to be melted?

22. What was added to the sinter in order to make it easier to melt?

23. How was the lead removed from the molten material?

24. Explain what "smelting" is.

25. What is the "slag"?

26. The slag at East Helena is very blocky, whereas the slag in Anaconda is more like sand. Explain why.

Go back to <http://formontana.net> and then click on picture # 57. Look at the image and read the explanation below the image.

27. What has been killing the residents of Libby (in the corner of northwestern Montana)?

28. The deadly mineral in question number 7 came from a vermiculite mine. What was the main use for vermiculite?

29. What caused this to become a situation that drew national attention? HINT: Seattle

30. In your own words explain what the governor's "silver bullet" was.

31. What percentage of the Libby mineworkers had lung damage?

32. How would it be possible for children of the mineworkers to get lung diseases?