

**Case History - The Gold King Mine Disaster**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Read [this article from award-winning High Country News](#). FYI: This is the [Gold King Mine on Google Maps](#).

HCN restricts non-subscribers to 4 pages/month. Do this in 1 sitting, leave the page open, clear the cache, or try a new computer.

The article seems long but really is interesting and a good read. More interesting extra credit and vocabulary are below.

1. Water from Bonita Peak drains into North Cement Creek which drains into \_\_\_\_\_ Creek which runs through Silverton. That creek then joins the \_\_\_\_\_ River which runs through Durango & Aztec. At Farmington, that river joins the \_\_\_\_\_ River. That river eventually dumps into the \_\_\_\_\_ River on the AZ-UT border. (This takes some map work. Stick with it. Switch between satellite and map views if needed.)

**2. Describe 4 things you learned from this article.**

A.

B.

C.

D.

**2. From the timeline about half way down the page with the < and > and photos, list what you consider the four most important events in the history of this area and explain why you deem them significant.**

A.

B.

C.

D.

**3. T/F Before this event, the creeks in this area were clean and teeming with fish, right? Explain.**

**4. Many people blamed this on the EPA. Was it really the fault of the EPA? Explain. Think long term.**

5. In your opinion, who or what is to blame? Defend your choice / choices.

6. How could this issue have been prevented? If it couldn't have been prevented, explain why.

7. Imagine that you are the  of San Juan County, Colorado. Describe 2 rules that would you put in place to keep this disaster from happening again and the intended effect of each of those rules.

RULE

EFFECT

A

B

8. Write 2 questions you still have that or I should have asked. If you can, find the answer to those questions.

1.

2.

Want extra credit? Summarize [The Dark Secrets of the Animal River](#) in 5 main points.

**Vocabulary**

[adit](#)    [CAT Excavator](#)    [Bonita Peak](#)

Cool Article - You may need to clear the cache so High Country News doesn't recognize your computer. Or try a different computer.  
<https://www.hcn.org/issues/50.15/wildlife-how-beavers-make-the-desert-bloom>