

Creative Solutions

The organisers of the strike had to be creative and determined.

Below are some challenges they encountered:

match them to their solutions by writing the corresponding letter in the empty box.

Read carefully... you need to find the solution that is the closest match for each challenge.

| Challenges | | Solution | |
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| 1. Aboriginal workers came from many different tribes and language groups. | | A | |
| 2. Workers were spread across a vast area in the Pilbara, without an easy way to communicate to each other about when to strike. | | B | Word of mouth was used to pass information. Workers were taught how to use a calendar. |
| 7. Worker's requests for better conditions were ignored by station owners. | | C | The leaders of the strike met with trusted white supporters who spread the news in letters, news articles and public talks. |
| 3. Workers were not allowed to leave the station without special permission, unless it was a special event. | | D | Workers were given tin cans with a rough calendar drawn on it. They used that to mark the full moons, so they knew when the strike was. |
| 4. Many workers did not read or write in Standard Australian English, so written communication was limited. | | E | Regional events where people were allowed to come together (such as races, wool transporting, cultural events) were used to meet and plan |
| 5. Government and police did not want workers to congregate or organise any civic actions (such as protest meetings). | | F | Leaders were elected who had family from different places and knew many Aboriginal languages |
| 6. Government and police did not want other people around the country finding out about the strikes. | | G | Strike organisers met in secret and visited stations by night (and/or in disguise) to avoid detection |
| | A | H | Refusing to work would force the station owners to listen, because they relied on the free labour to keep the stations running. |

Can you think of another challenge + solution that you can add?