

Date: _____

The 1946 Pilbara Strike Lesson Six

Name: _____

Cut-and-Paste Timeline

<p>1942 Over 200 Aboriginal people from 23 communities meet at Skull Creek for six weeks and set a common goal of “positive change”. Dooley Bin Bin and Clancy McKenna approach Don McLeod about planning a mass strike.</p>	<p>1943 The strike is planned for 1 May 1943, (MayDay – the official day of Workers’ Rights around the world). Leaders decide to postpone the strike until after the war finishes.</p>
<p>March 1945 Dooley Bin Bin travels around to different stations by foot, bicycle, and rail to spread the word and organise Aboriginal workers. Daisy Bindi meets McLeod and joins the movement</p>	<p>1st May 1946 The Pilbara Strike begins. Hundreds of Aboriginal workers begin to walk off more than 23 stations around the Pilbara, starting on the first day of shearing / mustering season. This rolling strike gains momentum over the next three years.</p>
<p>8th May 1946 Native Inspector Laurie O’Neill travels from station to station with a police constable warning Aboriginal workers to keep working instead of going on strike</p>	<p>May-June 1946 Police arrest Dooley Bin Bin, Clancy McKenna and Don McLeod. 200 people march in protest. All three are released and human rights activists help to appeal their convictions in court.</p>
<p>1947-1948 Strikers remain in strike camps with many visits from armed police. Many strikers find independent enterprises to earn income, such as mining, selling pearl shell, kangaroo skins and other items</p>	<p>June-July 1949 Fremantle Seamen’s Union refuses to transport wool “from the stations and farms where the slave conditions apply” and demands the release of strikers who were arrested. A government representative promises improvements to wages and conditions but slowly reverses this after the wool ban is lifted.</p>
<p>1949-1950 Pilbara stations mostly return to normal but with some improvements to wages and conditions. Many strikers never return to work for station-owners, instead starting their own cooperatives and businesses or living independently</p>	<p>1. Cut along the dotted lines and shuffle 2. Sequence the events in order 3. Glue in place</p>