

## COMPLETING A TIMELINE - SOLUTION

Date	Event
237 million years ago	The fossil, Wave Rock, and the sandstone under were Sydney laid down.
15,000 years ago	The sea level was lower than now and the Eora (people) probably lived on the coast 6 to 23 km east of Bondi.
10,000 to 6,000 years ago	The sea was at the same level as now.
3,000 to 2,500 years ago	This is the age of the oldest bones, shells and rock art found in the Sydney area.
1770	Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay and, 'found a very fine stream of fresh water on the north side'. (This was probably Cooks River.)
1788	There were probably about 3,000 Eora people living between the Nepean/Hawkesbury River and the coast.
1791	More than half of the Eora had already died from smallpox and other diseases after contact with the British settlers.
1793	The year when the first British settler was given land along the Cooks River.
1800	'Canterbury Vale' farm, with livestock (cows, horses and pigs), vineyards (for grapes) and an orchard of orange, nectarine, peach and apricot trees was sold to William Cox.
1800s	There was fishing and the burning of shells for lime around the mouth of the Cooks River and in Botany Bay
1810	A bridge over the Cooks River at Tempe meant the British settlers could now reach the south bank for picnicking, timber-getting, boating and some swimming.
From 1831	By this date, the British settlement had spread along the Cooks River and there were roads and crossings in several places.
Late 1830s	There were country houses beside the Cooks River.
By 1840	There were three crossings on the Cooks River. They were Unwin's Bridge and a dam at Tempe (near today's Princes Highway) and Prout's Bridge at Canterbury.
1841 to 42	The Sugar House refinery was built at Canterbury with sandstone quarried on the site. A dam was built to hold water.
1889	There was a major flood and the Cooks River rose to 2.5 metres above the dam at Tempe.
1946	The Cooks River was described as, 'Heavily polluted and parts not capable of sustaining aquatic life'. The decision was made to concrete the banks of the river.
1946	The Cooks River mouth was diverted 1.6 km further to the west so that Mascot airport could be built. Most wetlands had been destroyed by now.
1952	Canterbury Council requested no fishing in the river.
1990	The NSW government introduced fines of up to \$1million for pollution.
2008	Communities, local councils and the Catchment Management Authority work together to clean up the Cooks River.