

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Gros Ventre Slide

On June 23rd, 1925, a large rockslide dammed up the Gros Ventre River in western Wyoming. The Gros Ventre Slide followed weeks of heavy rain that saturated the mountainside. An earthquake then triggered the slide. Approximately fifty million cubic meters of rock slid downhill, crossed the river, with some of it moving as far as 130 meters up the opposite slope. The resulting natural dam formed Lower Slide Lake, which is visible at C16. Two years later the dam failed, causing a massive flood that killed six people and destroyed the town of Kelly, a few kilometers downstream.

The photographs used to create this 3-D image were taken nearly 75 years after the rockslide. The scar is still easily visible at E11-J11.

1. In which direction does the Gros Ventre River flow in this area? _____

2. Approximately how long is the scar that resulted from the Gros Ventre Slide? ____

3. How was the flow of the Gros Ventre River affected in the weeks immediately following the rockslide? _____

4. Why was the dam so weak that it failed so soon after being formed? _____

5. What could have been done to prevent the flood that destroyed Kelly? _____

6. Why is the landslide scar a different color than the surrounding land? _____

(Continued...)

7. Why is the scar still so easily visible so long after the rockslide occurred? _____

8. The slope of the rock layers is believed to have contributed to causing the rockslide. If this is true, in which direction would you guess that the rock layers dip in this area? _____

9. How might the size of the scar change in the future? _____
