

The First Fleet Voyage

The Fleet

The First Fleet was led by Captain Arthur Phillip. The Fleet had 11 ships. There were two escort ships, six convict transport ships and three store ships. Captain Arthur Phillip was on board HMS Sirius. The 11 ships carried 756 convicts and 550 crew members, marines and their families. The First Fleet left the harbour of Portsmouth in England on 13th May 1787.



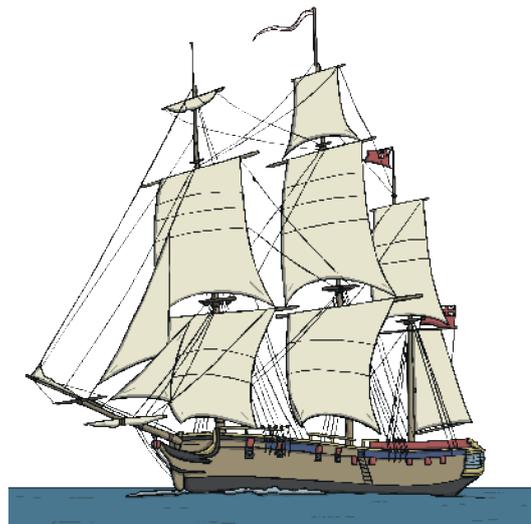
Convicts

In the 1770s, steam power was discovered which created many new industries in cities around England. Many people left their homes in the country to find work in the new factories which used steam power to earn more money. Cities soon became overcrowded and dirty. There was an increase in crime and unsafe living. Harsh punishments were given to criminals for their crimes.

In 1787, the British needed a new place to send their prisoners. The First Fleet was the first fleet of ships to transport convicts to the new British colony in Australia. The convicts were taken to Australia to perform hard labour.

The Journey

The First Fleet travelled south from England and stopped at Tenerife in the Canary Islands on 3rd June 1787. When the ships stopped here, they collected lots of fresh water and fresh vegetables. This helped them to stay healthy and to feed them for the next part of their journey. From here they sailed to Rio de Janeiro. The ships were cleaned and old clothes were burned to get rid of lice and fleas. They remained here for about a month before sailing to Table Bay at Cape Town and landing on 13th October 1787.



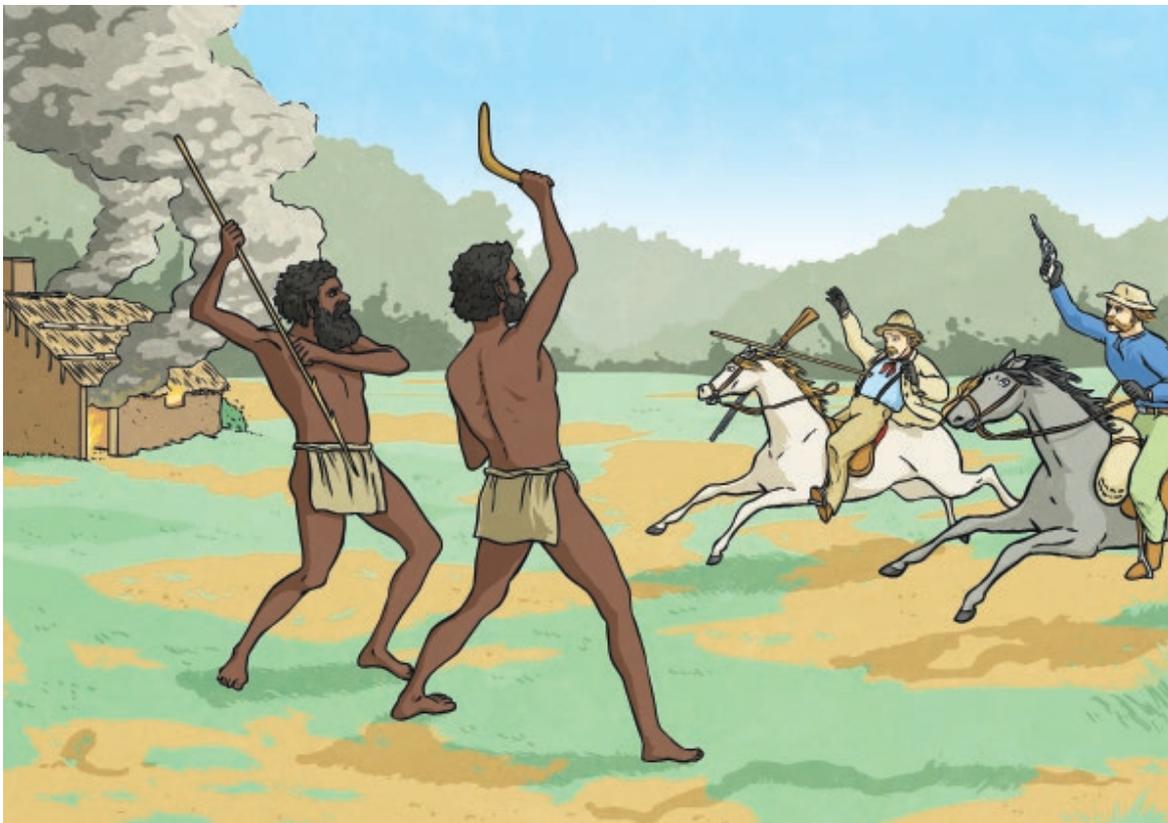
Arrival to Australia

On the 12th November 1787, the First Fleet set sail for their final destination, Botany Bay. They landed at Botany Bay on 20th January 1788. Captain Arthur Phillip found this area unsuitable for the settlement and he decided to move the entire Fleet north. The First Fleet arrived at Port Jackson, Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788. The journey took approximately 252 days.

Cultural Differences

When the Europeans landed at Port Jackson, they did not expect to meet anyone else. They were surprised when they saw the Indigenous Australians. They did not understand the way of life of the Indigenous people. Many of the settlers treated the Indigenous People with great disrespect and cruelty.

A short time after arriving, the European settlers had cut down many trees, set up camp to house 1000 people and tied up many animals. They had declared the land as English land and this led them to believe they could take anything they wanted. According to the British Government, the Indigenous People had no rights to this land as it was seen as British land. The Indigenous People would not regain their natural rights for many, many years to come.



Questions

1. Who led the First Fleet?

2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?

3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?

4. What type of jobs would the convicts perform when they arrived in Australia?

5. Which three places did the First Fleet travel to before arriving in Australia?

6. Why did people leave their homes in the country and move to the city?

7. Why was there an increase in crime in English cities?

8. Why were the settlers surprised to see the Aboriginal People?

9. How did the settlers treat the Aboriginal People?

10. How had settlers changed the Australian land shortly after arriving?

Answers

1. Who led the First Fleet?
Captain Arthur Phillip led the First Fleet.
2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?
Eleven ships were in the First Fleet.
3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?
The First Fleet departed England on 13th May 1787.
4. What type of jobs would the convicts perform when they arrived in Australia?
The convicts would perform hard labour when they arrived in Australia.
5. Which three places did the First Fleet travel to before arriving in Australia?
The First Fleet travelled to Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Rio de Janeiro and Table Bay at Cape Town before arriving in Australia.
6. Why did people leave their homes in the country and move to the city?
People left their homes in the country to move to the city to get jobs in steam-powered factories and make more money.
7. Why was there an increase in crime in English cities?
There was an increase in crime in English cities because there was a huge increase in population and the cities became overcrowded.
8. Why were the settlers surprised to see the Aboriginal People?
The settlers were surprised to see the Aboriginal People because they weren't expecting to meet anyone else in Australia.
9. How did the settlers treat the Aboriginal People?
The settlers treated the Aboriginal People with disrespect and cruelty.
10. How had settlers changed the Australian land shortly after arriving?
The settlers had changed the Australian land by cutting down many trees, setting up camp to house 1,000 people and tying up many animals.

The First Fleet Voyage

The Fleet

The First Fleet was led by Captain Arthur Phillip. The Fleet consisted of 11 ships. There were two escort ships (HMS Sirius and HMS Supply), six convict transport ships (Alexander, Charlotte, Friendship, Lady Penrhyn, Prince of Wales and Scarborough) and three store ships (Borrowdale, Fishburn and Golden Grove). Captain Arthur Phillip was on board HMS Sirius. The 11 ships carried 756 convicts and 550 crew members, marines and their families. The First Fleet left the harbour of Portsmouth in England on 13th May 1787.



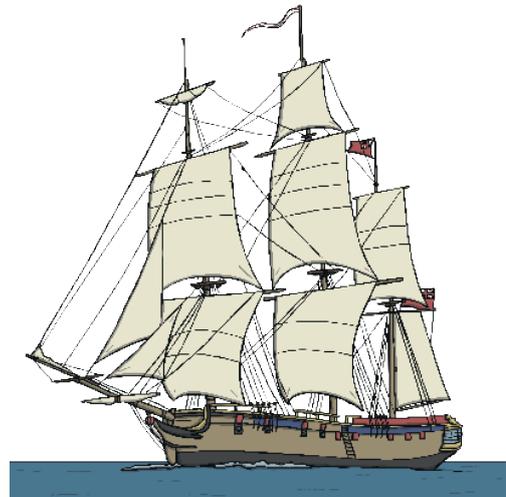
Convicts

In the 1770s, steam power was discovered which created many new industries in cities around England. Many people left their homes in the country to find work in the new factories which used steam power to earn more money. Because of this, cities became overcrowded and dirty. More people meant an increase in crime and unsafe living. Harsh punishments were given to criminals for their crimes. One of these was being sent to one of England's colonies to work for the rest of their lives.

In 1787, the British needed a new place to send their prisoners. The First Fleet was the first fleet of ships to transport convicts to the new British colony in Australia. The convicts were taken to Australia to perform hard labour such as digging the land and constructing buildings.

The Journey

The First Fleet travelled south from England and stopped at Tenerife in the Canary Islands on 3rd June 1787. When the ships stopped here, they collected lots of fresh water and fresh vegetables. This helped them to stay healthy and to feed them for the next part of their journey. The weather was hot and humid as the fleet sailed through the tropics. Below the decks, pests, such as rats, parasites, bedbugs, lice, cockroaches and fleas, made life very uncomfortable.



After eight weeks, the First Fleet landed at Rio de Janeiro on the South American coast on 7th August 1787. The ships were cleaned and old clothes were burned to get rid of lice and fleas. They remained here for about a month before departing for Table Bay at Cape Town and landing on 13th October 1787. It took them about five weeks at sea to reach this destination. While they were here, they took on supplies of cattle and fresh vegetables.

Arrival to Australia

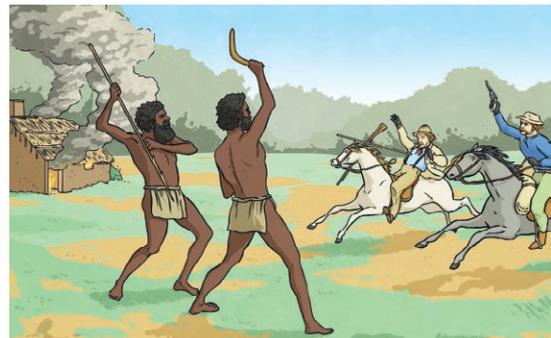
On the 12th November 1787, the First Fleet set sail for their final destination, Botany Bay. They arrived at Botany Bay on 20th January 1788. However, Captain Arthur Phillip found this area unsuitable for the settlement he decided to move the entire fleet north. The First Fleet arrived at Port Jackson, Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788. The journey took approximately 252 days and sailed for 24,000 kilometres.

Cultural Differences

When the Europeans landed at Port Jackson, they did not expect to meet anyone else. They were surprised when they were confronted by the Indigenous Australians. They did not understand the culture or way of life of the Indigenous People. Many of the settlers treated the Indigenous People with great disrespect and cruelty.

The settlers did not understand many aspects of the Indigenous culture, such as the cultural laws, many different languages and systems of lore. An example of Indigenous law is to seek permission from the owners before entering their land, which the Europeans obviously did not do. When the Indigenous people saw the First Fleet arrive, they ran to the shore and shook their spears at them. They were outnumbered by the settlers and overpowered with their sophisticated weapons.

Within a short time of arriving, the European settlers had cut down many trees, set up camp to house 1000 people and tied up many animals. They had declared the land as royal crown land and this led them to believe they could take anything they wanted from the land. According to the British Government, the Indigenous People had no rights to this land as it was seen as British land. The Indigenous People would not regain their natural rights for many, many years to come.



Questions

1. Who led the First Fleet?

2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?

3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?

4. What significant event happened in the 1770s?

5. What was one of the harsh punishments given to criminals?

6. Why did they decided to set up a colony in Australia?

7. Describe the weather and living conditions as the First Fleet sailed through the tropics.

8. Why did the First Fleet not settle at Botany Bay?

9. What aspects of the Aboriginal People did the settlers not understand?

10. How do you think the Settlers felt when they arrived in Australia?

Answers

1. Who led the First Fleet?
Captain Arthur Phillip led the First Fleet.
2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?
Eleven ships were in the First Fleet.
3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?
The First Fleet departed England on 13th May 1787.
4. What significant event happened in the 1770s?
Steam power was discovered in the 1770s.
5. What was one of the harsh punishments given to criminals?
One of the harsh punishments given to criminals was being sent to one of Britain's colonies to work for the rest of their lives.
6. Why did they decided to set up a colony in Australia?
They decided to set up a colony in Australia because they needed a new place to send their prisoners.
7. Describe the weather and living conditions as the First Fleet sailed through the tropics.
The weather was hot and humid. Below the decks pests such rats, parasites bedbugs, lice, cockroaches and fleas made life very uncomfortable as the First Fleet sailed through the tropics.
8. Why did the First Fleet not settle at Botany Bay?
Captain Arthur Phillip thought Botany Bay was unsuitable for the settlement so he decided to move the entire fleet north.
9. What aspects of the Aboriginal People did the settlers not understand?
The settlers did not understand the cultural laws, many different languages and systems of lore belonging to the Aboriginal culture.
10. How do you think the Settlers felt when they arrived in Australia?
Responses will vary but may include descriptive answers including disappointed, excited, worried, homesick.

The First Fleet Voyage

The Fleet

The First Fleet was commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip. In total, the Fleet consisted of 11 ships. There were two escort ships (HMS Sirius and HMS Supply), six convict transport ships (Alexander, Charlotte, Friendship, Lady Penrhyn, Prince of Wales and Scarborough) and three store ships (Borrowdale, Fishburn and Golden Grove). Captain Arthur Phillip was on board HMS Sirius. Altogether, the 11 ships carried around 756 convicts and 550 crew members, marines and their families. The First Fleet departed the harbour of Portsmouth in England on 13th May 1787.



Convicts

In the 1770s, steam power was discovered which created many new industries in cities around England. Many people left their homes in the country to find work in the new factories using steam power in order to earn more money. Because of this, cities became increasingly overcrowded and dirty. The surge in population enabled an increase in crime and unsafe living. Overly harsh punishments, unreasonable for today's standards, were given to criminals for their crimes. One of these was transportation. Transportation meant that prisoners were sent to one of England's colonies to work for the rest of their lives.



Until 1787, convicts from England were sent to British colonies in North America. However, after the Revolutionary War, the Americans drove the English out and it became the United States of America. The British no longer had colonies in America and they needed a new place to send their prisoners. The First Fleet was the first group of ships to transport convicts to the British colony in Australia. The convicts were taken to Australia to perform the hard labour such as digging the land and constructing buildings.

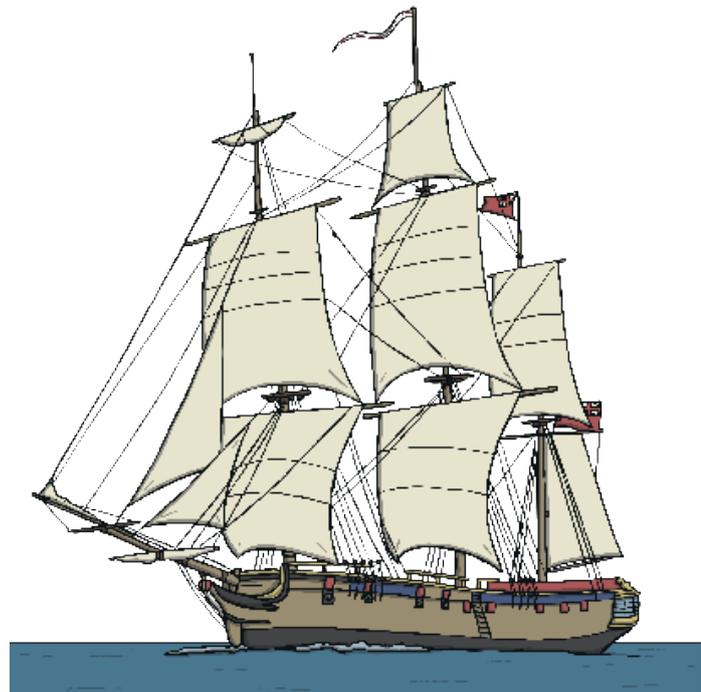
The Journey

The First Fleet travelled south from England and stopped at Tenerife in the Canary Islands on 3rd June 1787. When the ships stopped here, they collected lots of fresh water and fresh vegetables. This helped them to stay healthy and to sustain them for the next part of their journey. The weather was hot, humid and uncomfortable as the Fleet sailed through the tropics. Below the decks, rats, parasites bedbugs, lice, cockroaches and fleas made life very unsanitary and unbearable.

After eight weeks, the First Fleet arrived at Rio de Janeiro on the South American coast on 7th August 1787. The ships were thoroughly and old clothes were burned to get rid of lice and fleas. They remained here for about a month before departing for Table Bay at Cape Town and landing on 13th October 1787. It took them about five weeks at sea to reach this destination. While they were here, they took on supplies of cattle and fresh vegetables.

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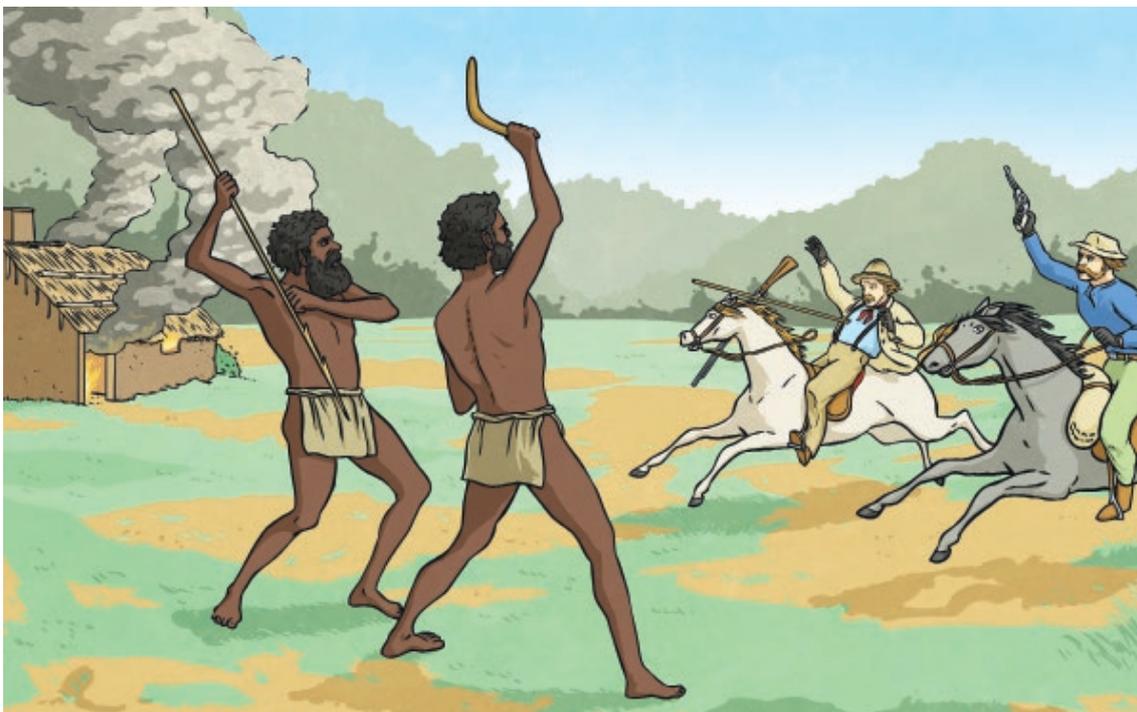


Cultural Differences

When the Europeans landed at Port Jackson, they did not expect to meet anyone else. They were surprised when they were confronted by the Indigenous Australians. They did not understand the culture or way of life of the Indigenous People. Many of the settlers treated the Indigenous people with great disrespect and cruelty.

The settlers did not understand many aspects of the Indigenous culture, such as the cultural laws, many different languages and systems of lore. An example of Indigenous law is to seek permission from the owners before entering their land, which the Europeans obviously did not do. When the Indigenous People saw the First Fleet arrive, they ran to the shore and shook their spears at them. They were outnumbered by the settlers and overpowered with their sophisticated weapons.

Within a short time of arriving, the European settlers had cut down many trees, set up camp to house 1000 people and tied up many animals. They had declared the land as royal crown land and this led them to believe they could take anything they wanted from the land. According to the British Government, the Indigenous People had no rights to this land as it was seen as British land. The Indigenous People would not regain their natural rights for many, many years to come.



1. Who commanded the First Fleet?

2. Name the ships in the First Fleet.

3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?

4. What significant event happened in the 1770s?

5. How did this event affect British cities?

6. Describe the events which caused Britain to need a new place to send their convicts.

7. Describe the journey of the First Fleet.

8. Describe how you think the convicts felt when they arrived in Australia.

9. Describe how you think the settlers felt when they arrived in Australia.

10. Describe how you think the Aboriginal People felt when the settlers arrived in Australia.

Answers

1. Who commanded the First Fleet?
Captain Arthur Phillip commanded the First Fleet.
2. How many ships were in the First Fleet?
HMS Sirius and HMS Supply, Alexander, Charlotte, Friendship, Lady Penrhyn, Prince of Wales, Scarborough, Borrowdale, Fishburn and Golden Grove were the ships in the First Fleet.
3. On which date did the First Fleet depart England?
The First Fleet departed England on 13th May 1787.
4. What significant event happened in the 1770s?
Steam power was discovered in the 1770s.
5. How did this event affect British cities?
Steam power created many new jobs. People came to live in the cities to work in factories to earn more money. They became overcrowded and dirty. There was an increase in crime and unsafe living.
6. Describe the events which caused Britain to need a new place to send their convicts.
Britain sent convicts to the colonies in North America. There was a war and the Americans drove the British out. The British no longer had colonies there and they needed somewhere to send their prisoners.
7. Describe the journey of the First Fleet.
The First Fleet first stopped at Tenerife. They then went on to Rio de Janeiro. Next, they went to Table Bay at Cape Town. They arrived at Botany Bay but moved to Port Jackson, Sydney Cove.
8. Describe how you think the convicts felt when they arrived in Australia.
Answers will vary but may include words such as despair, miserable.
9. Describe how you think the settlers felt when they arrived in Australia.
Responses will vary but may include disappointed, excited, worried, homesick
10. Describe how you think the Aboriginal People felt when the settlers arrived in Australia.
Responses will vary but may include despair, confusion, anger, fear.