

Activity

Episode 1
4th February 2014

First Fleet

Key Learning

Students will investigate what life was like in 18th century Britain, stories from the First Fleet and first contact with Aboriginal people.

The Australian Curriculum

History / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / First Contacts

Stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival. ([ACHHK079](#)) Year 4



History / Historical Skills / Historical questions and research

Identify sources ([ACHHS216](#)) Year 4



Pose a range of questions about the past ([ACHHS083](#)) Year 4



History / Historical Skills / Explanation and Communication

Develop texts, particularly narratives ([ACHHS086](#)) Year 4



Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies ([ACHHS087](#)) Year 4



Discussion Questions

1. When is Australia Day?
2. Complete the following sentence: The day marks the anniversary of...
3. Describe life in Britain in the 1700s.
4. Why were prisoners transported to the colonies?
5. What sorts of crimes were committed by people who were transported?
6. How many ships transported convicts in the First Fleet?
7. What do you think life would have been like on board the ships in the First Fleet?
8. New _____ was the name give to mainland Australia.
9. Who was the commander chosen to lead the colony?
10. Name three facts you learnt watching the BtN *First Fleet* story.

Engage

After watching the BtN story hold a class discussion to find out what students know about the First Fleet. The following questions can help guide discussion:

- When did the First Fleet leave England?
- When did they arrive in Botany Bay?
- Why did the First Fleet travel to Australia?
- Who was transported?
- What were the conditions like on the ships?

Working in pairs, students create a glossary of historical terms related to the First Fleet. Follow up this activity with a class discussion to ensure students understand the terms.

Penal	Transportation	Navigation
Colony	Colonisation	Fleet
Convict	Free settler	Prison hulk
Larceny	Settlement	Rations

Ask students to present the glossary in an interesting way, for example:

- *Wordle* word cloud <http://www.wordle.net/>
- A poster
- Use the words to form your own sentences.
- Illustrate the terms in an interesting way.

Explore

England in the 1700s

Students will explore what life was like in England in the 1700s and research the events that led to the transportation of convicts to Australia. Things to consider include:

- Changes to farming practices in England
- America becoming independent from Britain
- English cities becoming overcrowded
- Rates of petty crime
- Overcrowding in prisons

Brainstorm a list of words that describe what life was like at this time. Students create an artwork that depicts life in England in the 1700s.

Stories from the First Fleet

Students will research a prisoner on the First Fleet and tell their story. The following website will provide a starting point for their research <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/timeline/1787>

Write a journal entry in the first person using present tense. Students can then present their journal entry as a podcast or an oral presentation. Refer to BtN's 'How to make a podcast' document for step by step instructions. <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/extracontent/2013/podcasting/podcasting.pdf>

Refer to the *NSW State Library* website for *Journals from the First Fleet*. The State Library holds the world's largest collection of original First Fleet journals and correspondence.

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/terra_australis/journals/index.html

Convict love tokens

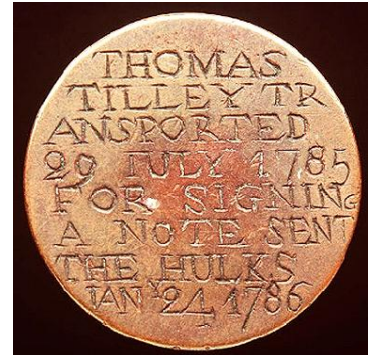
Love tokens were made by convicts while they were waiting to be transported. They were made of copper coins and given to people they were leaving behind.

Visit the *National Museum Australia* website to find out more about these tokens <http://www.nma.gov.au/collections/highlights/convict-tokens>

Hold a class discussion.

- What was the purpose of the love tokens?
- What sort of information was included on the love tokens?
- How were they made?

Students design their own convict love token that has a message to a loved one. They could base their design on an original convict love token.



A convict love token that belonged to Thomas Tilley, a convict on the First Fleet.

Source: Powerhouse Museum

Explain

Life on board the ships

What was life on board the ships like?

Research what daily life was like for the convicts on board the First Fleet. Create an artwork or write a letter to your family home in England describing the conditions and how you're feeling.

<http://www.portcities.org.uk/london/server/show/ConNarrative.56/chapterId/429/Prison-hulks-on-the-River-Thames.html>

- What was a typical day on board the ships?
<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/ships.html>
- What were the daily routines on board convict ships?
- What do the routines tell us about conditions on board the ships?
- What was the source of the information? Whose point of view is being given?

Reconstruct the voyage of the First Fleet using the information in the BtN story and the following website http://firstfleet.uow.edu.au/s_chrono.html

Show the journey including places and dates by either hand drawing or using an online mapping tool like Google maps <http://maps.google.com> or Scribble maps <http://scribblemaps.com/>

First Contact

Students will explore the nature of the contact between First Fleet settlers and Aboriginal people in the early days of colonisation.

Ask students to watch the following videos. The first clip explains Indigenous life before contact

<http://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/first-australians-episode-1/clip1/>



- What did the video tell you about Indigenous life before European settlement?

The second clip gives an Indigenous perspective of the First Fleet arriving <http://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/first-australians-episode-1/clip2/>

- How is the landing of the First Fleet described in the video?
- What do the videos tell you about contact between the First Fleet settlers and Aboriginal people?



Evaluate

Ask students to reflect on their learning

- I learned that...
- I enjoyed/did not enjoy...
- I want to know more about...
- I was surprised to discover that...

Related Research Links

ABC My Place – First Fleet

http://www.myplace.edu.au/decades_timeline/1780/decade_landing_22.html?tabRank=2

A Convict Story – Interactive

<http://lrrpublic.cli.det.nsw.edu.au/lrrSecure/Sites/Web/13651/>

Sydney Living Museums – Why were convicts transported to Australia?

http://www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights/kids_fact_sheets/why_were_convicts_transported_to_australia

Australian History – First Fleet

<http://www.australianhistory.org/first-fleet>