

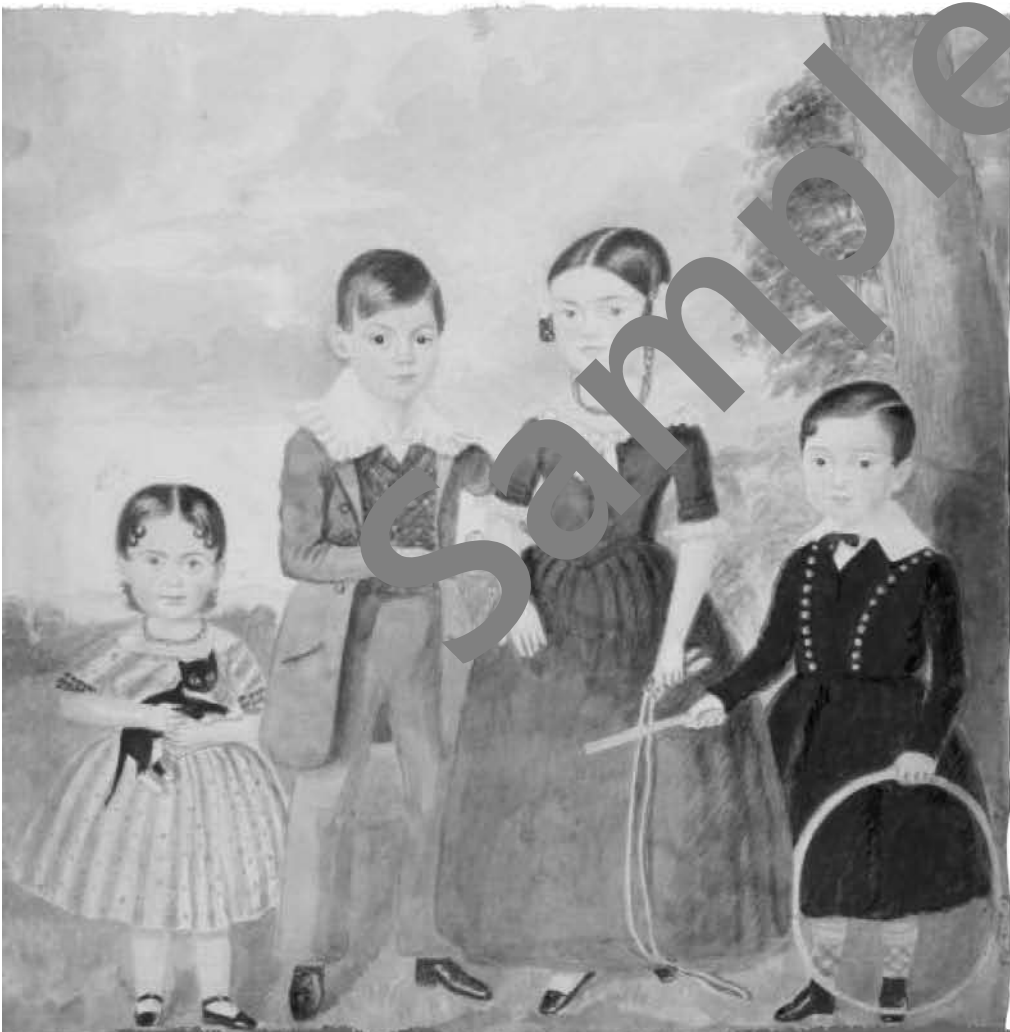


Australian History Series
Book 5: Ages 10-11 years



The Australian Colonies

Aligned with the Australian National Curriculum



Section 1:
Establishment of
British Colonies

Section 2:
Colonial Life
and Patterns
of Settlement

Section 3:
Events That
Affected Colonies

Section 4:
Australian
Migrants

Section 5:
Great Australians



By Lisa Craig

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Teachers' Notes

The Australian Colonies has been written for students who are living in Australia and are studying History in Year 5. It contains five sections which relate closely to the National Curriculum.

The first section helps students to develop an understanding of the reasons why Britain decided to establish colonies in Australia after 1800.

The second section of the book encourages students to investigate daily life in colonial Australia for Indigenous Australians and convicts, and explores the affect of colonialism on the environment. It also looks closely at the reasons behind the location of various settlements.

Events That Affected Colonies is the title of the third section of the book. It examines frontier conflict, internal exploration of Australia and the expansion of farming.

The fourth section provides students with the opportunity to share the experiences of different Australian migrants, such as assisted passengers, indentured labourers and those escaping the Irish Potato Famine and the Highland Clearances. It also examines the contributions of particular migrants in Australia.

The final section of the book looks at the contributions that Caroline Chisholm, Louise Lawson and indigenous guides and trackers made to developing colonies.

The activity sheets have been written to extend students' historical knowledge and understanding. To make life easy for the teacher the answers are provided at the back of the book.

National Curriculum Links

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

ACHHK093 – Reasons (economic, political and social) for the establishment of British colonies in Australia after 1800.

ACHHK094 – The nature of a convict or colonial settlement in Australia, including the factors that influenced patterns of settlement, aspects of the daily life of its different inhabitants, and how they changed the environment.

ACHHK095 – The impact of a significant development or event on a colony.

ACHHK096 – The reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia, and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

ACHHK097 – The role that a significant individual or group played in shaping a colony.

Historical Skills

ACHHS098 & ACHHS099 – Chronology, terms and concepts.

ACHHS100 & ACHHS101 – Historical questions and research.

ACHHS102 & ACHHS103 – Analysis and use of sources.

ACHHS104 – Perspectives and interpretations.

ACHHS105 & ACHHS106 – Explanation and communication.

British Penal Colonies

In the 17th and 18th centuries, convicted criminals in Britain were transported to far-off penal colonies in different parts of Britain's Empire. The British government wanted to separate criminals from law-abiding citizens in society. It was hoped that the harsh punishment of being transported would make people think twice before committing crimes, even petty ones such as stealing food or clothes. During the 17th and 18th centuries, penal colonies had been set up in Georgia in North America, Bermuda, Ghana, the Andaman Islands and Singapore. New South Wales became a British penal colony in 1788.



Fleet of transports under convoy c. 1788
National Library of Australia

Transportation was also a way of dealing with the problem of overcrowding in prisons. This problem was so serious that old ships, called hulks, were converted into floating prisons. Once convicted had been transported, they were forbidden to step foot in the Old Country again, even after serving out their sentences. Petty criminals were not the only ones marked for transportation. Political opponents, non-judicial Martyrs, Irish rebel leaders, orphans, mutineers and pirates found themselves bound for Botany Bay.

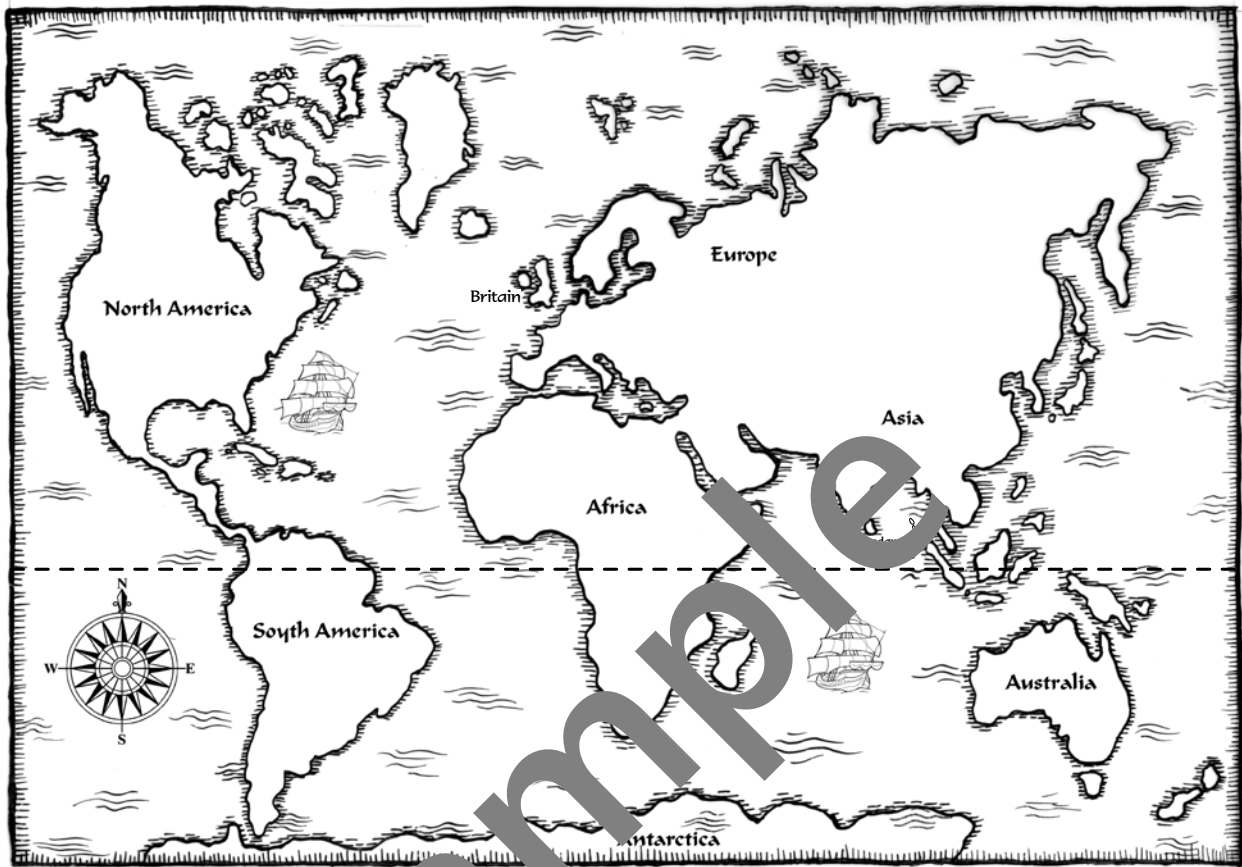
Other reasons for setting up penal colonies in Australia after 1800:

- *The North American colonies refused to accept British convicts after the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Britain needed a remote place to keep sending its convicts.*
- *To gain control over the huge Australian territory and prevent other European powers, in particular France, from establishing colonies on the continent.*
- *To use Australia's location to promote trade with Asian nations like China.*
- *Cheap convict labour could build infrastructures that the colony needed, such as: roads, bridges and public buildings. Convicts could be assigned to settlers to work on farms.*
- *Britain could benefit economically from the industries developed in the Australian colonies with convict labour. New South Wales was already producing fine wool from merino sheep and quality wine, and a thriving whaling and sealing industry was operating around Bass Strait.*

Between 1788 and 1868 more than 165,000 convicts were transported to the Australian colonies.

Locate

Colour the places where Britain set up penal colonies. Page 6 will help you. Draw lines to connect these colonies to Britain.



1. Which penal colony was the furthest away from Britain?

2. Why did Britain want to send its criminals to far-away places in the 19th century?

3. How did the transportation of convicts to the Australian colonies help Britain in the 1800s?

4. Why do you think orphans were transported along with convicts to New South Wales?

Macquarie Harbour

The penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour, situated on the west coast of Van Diemen's Land, had earned the reputation of being a place of horror. Its inmates were "some of the most incorrigible criminals of the Kingdom". During the 11 years that Macquarie Harbour operated as a penal station (1822-1833), 1,150 men and 30 women served out their sentences behind its "sullen gates".

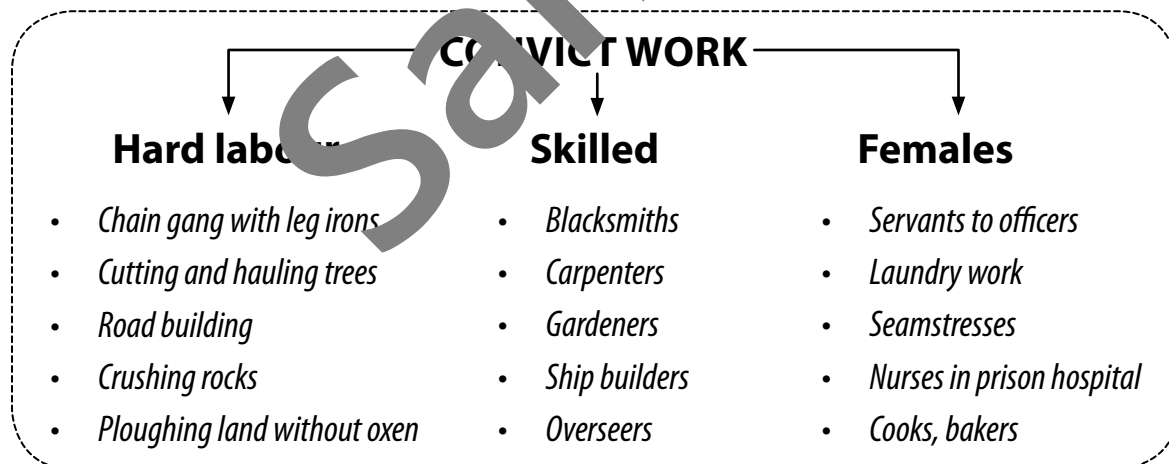
*Macquarie Harbour jailers lock
the sullen gates no more ...
but lash-strokes sound in every shock
of ocean on the dismal rocks
along that barren shore.*

By Rex Ingamell

A Perfect Place For a Prison

The main part of the Macquarie Harbour prison was situated on Sarah Island with other facilities on nearby islands. The prisons could only be reached by sea through a passage called "Hell's Gate". This route was dangerous due to the strong currents and rocks. The site was surrounded by rugged wilderness and was 240 kilometres away from the nearest settlement at Hobart Town. The British claimed that Macquarie Harbour was escape-proof.

Convicts at Macquarie Harbour were there to work and be reformed. The Huon pine forests near the colony provided timber to build more than 120 ships of all sizes for the British government. The diagram below shows other types of convict work carried out at the penal station.



Punishment

If convicts behaved well and worked hard during their time at Macquarie Harbour, they could earn rewards like conditional pardons or paid work from settlers. For those who would not be disciplined, the punishments were severe – floggings of more than 50 lashes and solitary confinement in a tiny windowless cell for a month at a time with reduced rations of food. Convict women were also flogged and had their heads shaved.

Activity

Macquarie Harbour 1

1. Read the verse from Rex Ingamell's poem Macquarie Harbour on page 10. Look up the meanings of 'sullen', 'lash', 'dismal' and 'barren'. Describe the atmosphere that the poet wanted to create about Macquarie Harbour.

2. Why was Macquarie Harbour an ideal site for establishing penal stations?

Convicts

- ☐ Answer the questions below using the information on page 10 and the image below by Dempriere, showing convicts on Philip's Island in Macquarie Harbour (c. 1828).



Alipart Library and Museum of Fine Arts,
Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

3. Do you think these convicts had committed serious crimes? What evidence do you have for your answer?

4. Why would it have been difficult to escape from the Philip's Island penal site?

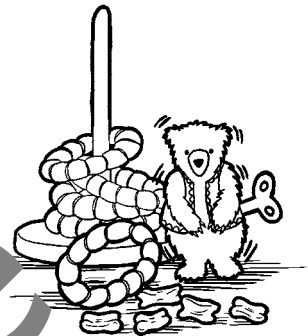


Use an internet mapping tool to visit the Sarah Island penal site.
The coordinates are: 42.387889°S 145.448611°E.

Daily Life in Bathurst

Settlers set about building a future on the land for themselves and their children. After a day's hard work in the fields, making clothes or preserving fruits, there was some time left for leisure activities. The Bathurst countryside provided pastimes such as collecting butterflies and moths, collecting rocks that contained gems and fossils and going for a dip in a local waterhole.

Children in the 1800s loved toys, nursery rhymes and games just as much as children do today. People believed at this time though that games should be educational. This is why board games often focused on teaching science, history, geography and religion. Books were still quite rare in the colony and would have only been found in the homes of wealthy free settlers. Poorer settlers may not have known how to read and education was not compulsory for children.



Other Popular Games and Pastimes

- Card games and jigsaw puzzles
- Playing quoits and skittles
- Playing with tin and clockwork toys
- Hopscotch and follow the leader
- Making scrapbooks
- Skipping, hula-hoops
- Playing jacks (knucklebones)
- Making wooden pull-along toys

Clothing

Women on homesteads did the job of making clothes for the family. Hard-wearing fabrics like calico, denim and muen were used so that clothes lasted longer. The Bathurst climate meant that farmers had to work outdoors in the hot, dry summer and the cold, icy conditions of winter. Cotton shirts and trousers kept them cool in summer and for winter a woollen jacket and hat were added.



National Library of Australia

In the 19th century, children's clothing was a miniature version of what their parents wore. Boys and girls wore frocks with pantaloons underneath. Wealthier settlers could afford to order items from Sydney Town such as silk and cotton stockings, fancy vests and wool frock coats with tails. Women wore long skirts, blouses and lace-up boots. They would carry parasols to protect them from the hot sun and wore bonnets for church and decorated hats for social occasions.

Games and Pastimes

- ☐ Look at the games and pastimes on page 20 that were popular with the Bathurst settlers in the 1800s and complete the following.

1. Make a list of the activities that are still popular today. Use a dictionary to help you with unfamiliar words.

Leisure activities that are still popular today

2. How have games and pastimes changed over the last 200 years? Give some examples to support your answer.

3. Suggest two reasons for settlers' clothes being made out of long-lasting fabrics.

- ---
- ---

4. Study the image of the children (right). In what ways are they dressed to look like small adults?



National Library of Australia

5. Do you think that the clothing of the early settlers was suited to the climate and environment of Bathurst?
