

# History of Australia



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# The First Australians

-The first known people of Australia were the Aborigines. Australian Aboriginal culture is the oldest living culture in the world. It dates as far back as 40,000 years.

-Europeans started exploring Australia in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

-In 1770, Captain James Cook claimed the continent for the British and named it New South Wales.



# The British are Coming



- In 1779, Joseph Banks suggested that Britain use the newly claimed continent to solve its overcrowded prisons problem.
- In 1787, the First Fleet set sail, comprising 11 ships, 1500 people- half of which were convicts.
- The fleet arrived in Sydney Harbor on January 26, 1788.
- This day is celebrated as Australian Day.

# A Country is Born

- Approximately 160,000 men and women were brought to Australia as convicts from 1788 until 1868.
- The discovery of gold in the 1850's permanently changed the colony with an influx of free settlers.
- The Commonwealth of Australia was formed in 1901 through the federation of six states under one constitution.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aib/history/> - June 2008

