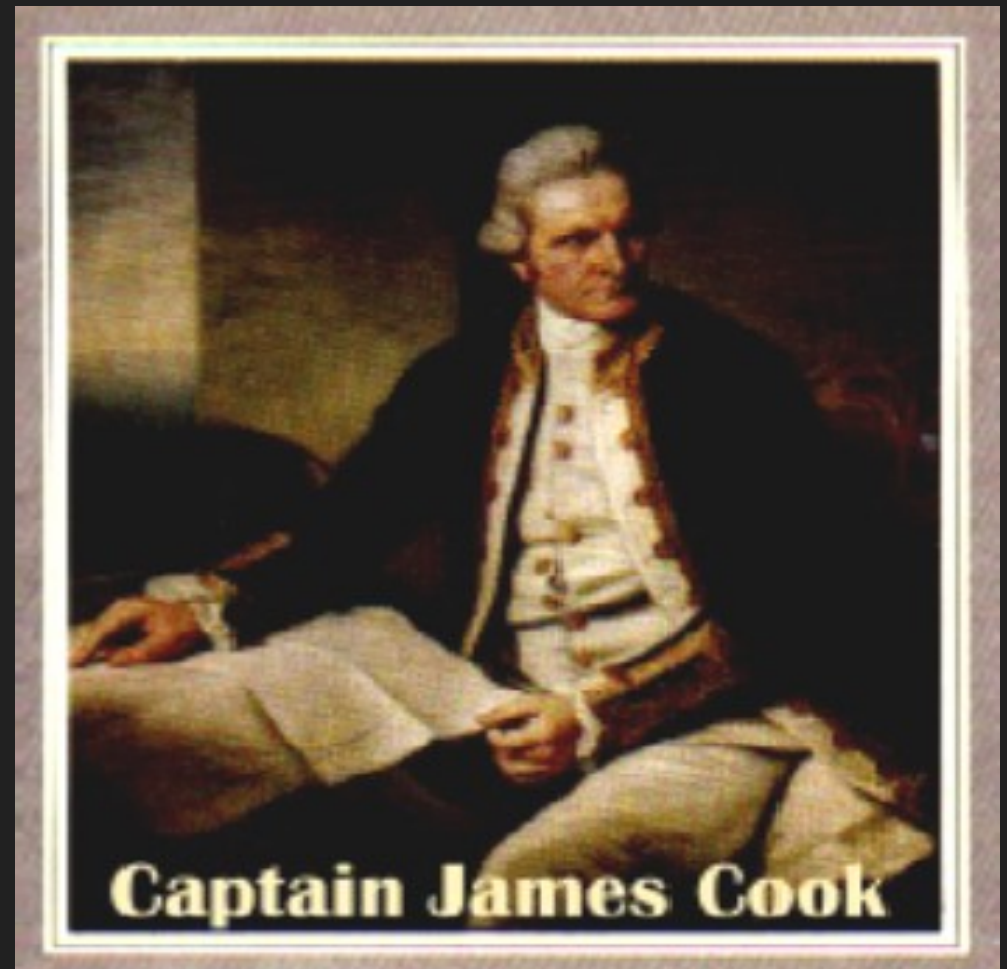


History of Australia

The First Convicts Transported To Australia

During the 17th century and 18th century European explorers reached Australia.

- 1770- Captain Cook claimed eastern Australia for Britain. He called it New South Wales.
- Life was hard for ordinary people in the 18th century and punishments for even minor crimes were severe. Convicts were transported to Virginia and Maryland in what is now the USA.



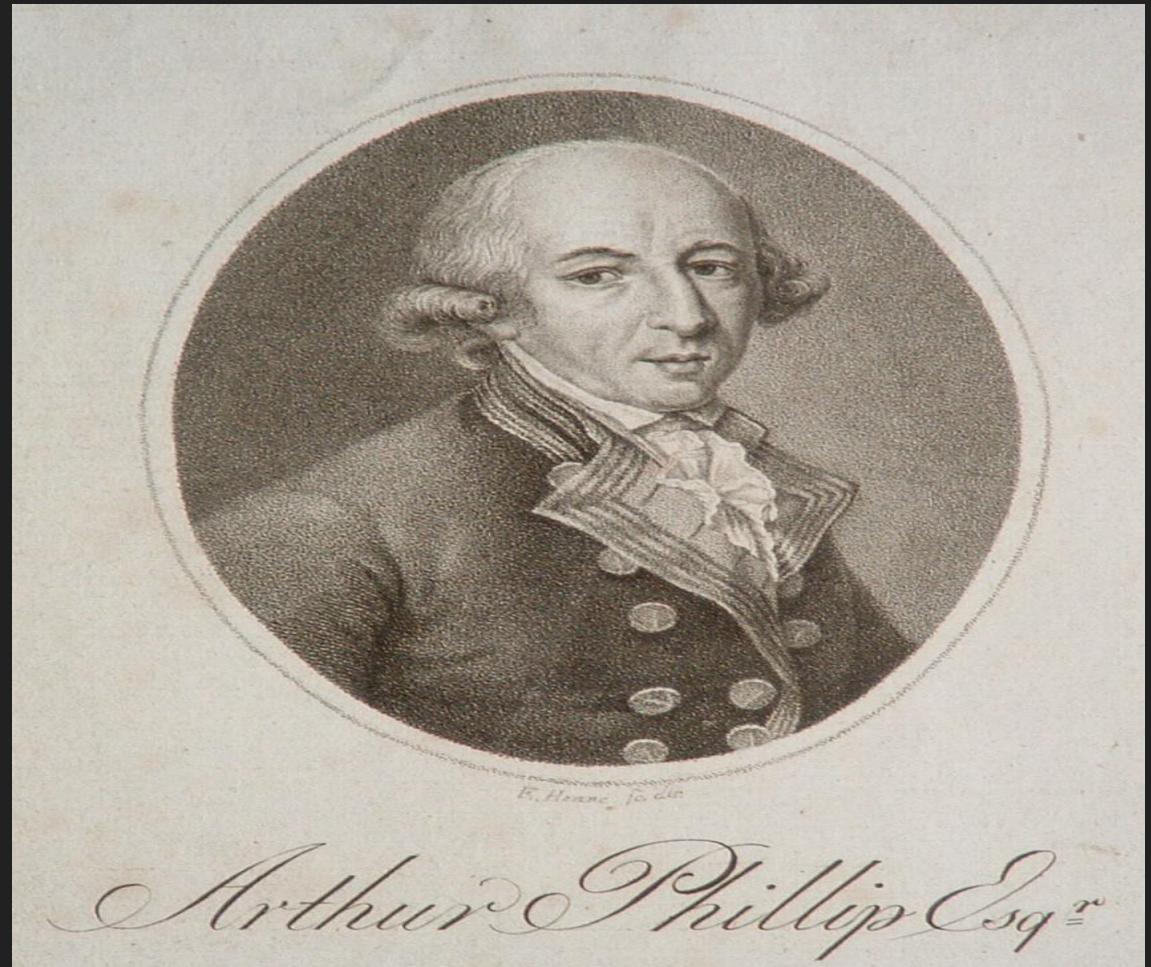
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- 1775-1783- (The American War of Independence) the government began looking for a new destination for transporters.
- 1786- It was decided to send them to Botany Bay.
- May 13, 1787- A fleet of 11 ships set sail from Portsmouth.



On board were 759 convicts, most of them men with sailors and marines to guard the prisoners. Captain Arthur Philip commanded them.

- January 26, 1788- The first colonists came ashore at Port Jackson.
- 1790- A second fleet arrived.
- 1791- A third fleet came.



- At first the settlers lived in simple wooden huts but later convicts made bricks for houses.
- December 1792- Captain Phillip left Australia.
- When he returned to England he took samples of Australian plants and animals. He also took two indigenous people.
- 1793- Those who behaved well were freed and given grants of land. First free settlers arrived.

Australia In The Early 19th Century

Relatively few new people were sent to Australia during the long wars with France from 1793 to 1815 because the war at sea made that difficult.

- John Hunter (1795-1800)- The second governor of Australia.
- He was followed by Philip King (1800-1806)
- 1803- Under King the first colonists settled in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania).
- 1804- A new settlement was founded at Newcastle for convicts who committed a second offence.
- 1813- Europeans discovered a pass through the Blue Mountains.
- 1829- Berrima was founded.



Australia in late 19th Century

- In the late 19th century Northern Australia began to grow.
- 1869- Darwin was founded.
- 1872- An overland telegraph was made from Darwin to Adelaide.
- Cattle were very important to the northern economy. Because of the hot climate there were also sugar plantations.



- Communications also improved with the invention of the telephone.
- 1878- The first telephone call in Australia was made in Melbourne.
- Telephone exchanges opened in Melbourne and Brisbane (1880), Sydney (1881), Adelaide, Hobart and Launceston (1883) and Perth (1887).
- 1882- On the other hand gold was found in Western Australia.
- 1892- Another find and led to a gold rush.
- However this time the gold was exploited by large companies rather than by lone prospectors. The population of Western Australia boomed as a result of the gold rush.

Australia in the Early 20th Century

- By 1901 the population of Australia was over 3.7 million and it was growing rapidly. The population of New South Wales was about 1.4 million.
- At the end of the 19th century the different states agreed to form a federation.
- January 1, 1901- The Commonwealth of Australia was formed.
- After 1913- A new capital city was built at Canberra.
- 1927- Parliament House in Canberra opened.
- After 1900- Australia recovered, to some extent, from the recession of the 1890s but then came World War I.

1907- A court case ended in the Harvester Judgment which said that an unskilled workman should earn at least 7 shillings for an 8 hour day.

- This became the basis of Australia's basic wage.

1900- Bubonic plague struck a number of Australian cities.

- In Sydney alone 103 people died.

1913- Sydney also suffered an outbreak of smallpox but fortunately only 4 people died.



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- 1946- The Australian National University was founded in 1946.
- 1951- School of the Air began in the Alice Springs area.
- 1956- Television began in Australia.
- 1973- Sydney Opera House, a symbol of modern Australia, opened.

- 1960s- Immigration policy changed.
- 1970s and 1980s- Many Asian immigrants came.

There were also many immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Treatment of Indigenous Australians improved.

- From 1959- Indigenous Australians were allowed welfare benefits.
- After 1962- They were allowed to vote.
- 1971- Indigenous Australians were included in the census for the first time.



Australia in the 21st Century

Today the population of Australia is 22 million.

- 2006- It was estimated that the indigenous population was about 500,000 - about the same as it was when Europeans first arrived in Australia at the end of the 18th century.
- 1990s- Unemployment was high but at the beginning of the 21st century the situation improved.
- March 2012- Unemployment in Australia stood at 5.2%.



- Today Australia is a prosperous country.
- 2008- Quentin Bryce became the first woman Governor-General of Australia.
- 2010- Julia Gillard became the first woman Prime Minister of Australia.

