

Community

First Contact



Years 3 & 4

Your students will learn about the lives of the First Australians before European settlers arrived in Australia and the causes and reasons for the journey of the First Fleet. They will practise thinking and acting like historians as they are immersed in stories of first contact between Indigenous Australians and European Settlers.

Rationale

Understanding the history of the Australian community enables us to empathise and appreciate the traditions and experiences of different cultures.

Essential questions

- How did the Indigenous Australians live before European settlers arrived?
- What were the causes and reasons for the journey of the First Fleet?
- What was the impact of first contact between European settlers and Indigenous Australians?
- How do historians use artefacts to learn about the past?

Glossary

artefact, British, character, clarity, convict, culture, decade, diversity, expedition, exploration, First Australians, fleet, heritage, historian, history, immigrate, lifestyle, nation, past, persist, present, prison, sequence, settler, source, survival, timeline, tradition, transport, voyage

Rich assessment task

Students will work with a partner to prepare artefacts to represent the life of an Indigenous person and a European Settler. They will research the artefacts designed by other students in their class and in week eight, they will present their findings explaining what they have learnt and shared a new question that arose from their research.

Future action

Your students will have the knowledge and language to participate in conversations about the Australian culture and the treatment of the First Australians. They will use the skills of historians as they consider their family history and develop a curiosity about the past. Your students will be able to consider the punishment of the convicts in the context of modern-day standards.