

COLONIZATION OF AUSTRALIA BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

The first Europeans to sail into Australian waters arrived in 1606. To reach Australia from Europe, ships sailed south along the west African coast to the Cape of Good Hope and then turned east across the Indian Ocean. For nearly two hundred years, ships from several European nations sailed to the continent.

In 1770, Captain James Cook charted the eastern Australian coast in his ship *Endeavor*. Following orders from British King George III, Cook claimed the east coast for Great Britain. Cook named eastern Australia “New South Wales”. The British mapped the coast of Australia, including the island of Tasmania.

The independence of the thirteen American colonies led the British to colonize Australia in 1788. Before American independence, the British sent prisoners to be colonists in the Georgia colony in America. Britain created a new penal (prison) colony by shipping prisoners from Great Britain to Australia.

There were four main reasons for the British to colonize Australia. First, the British wanted to colonize Australia to relieve overcrowding in Great Britain’s jails. Second, the British government recognized the importance of having its navy stationed in Australia in the southern hemisphere. The British viewed Australia as an economic base to expand trade. Finally, the British government did not want its rivals, especially the French, to start a colony on the Australian continent.

Questions to Consider:

1. Who claimed Australia for Great Britain?
2. What type of people were the first British colonists in Australia?
3. In the passage above, highlight the four reasons that Great Britain colonized Australia.
4. In your own words, summarize each of the four reasons that Great Britain colonized Australia:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.



COLONIZE AUSTRALIA! FLYER

Directions: Imagine that it is the year 1788. Create a flyer that informs the people of Great Britain why it is important for the country to colonize Australia. Include each reason that you wrote in question 4 (above), as well as a colorful graphic that explains the reason. *The size and shape of the flyer is up to you, but it needs to be colorful and creative!