

NAME:

Year 9 – Indigenous Australia – Colonisation

Read the 'Colonisation' (page 5) section of the fact book and complete the following activities.

ACTIVITY 1 - COLONISATION

Imagine you are an Indigenous Australian person living in Australia before European colonisation.

1. Describe what your daily life would have been like before colonisation.
The 'Culture and Spirituality' (page 25) section of the fact book will help with this question.
2. Look at the picture of the flag raising in the fact book. How would Indigenous Australians have viewed this event at the time? Would they have known what was happening? How is this event viewed by Indigenous Australians today?
3. How would your life have changed after British colonisation?
4. Communication between Indigenous Australians and British colonisers would have been very difficult. What impact would this have had on both groups?
5. As an Indigenous Australian person/community, what actions could you take in response to colonisation?



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According to the international law of Europe, “If the country was already inhabited, Britain could ask for permission from the Indigenous people to use some of their land. In this case, Britain could purchase land for its own use but it could not steal the land of the Indigenous people.”

6. How might Australia be different today if the British followed this law?

7. What were the short and long term impacts of colonisation on Indigenous Australians (further research may be required)? Were these effects intended or unintended? Explain.

ACTIVITY 2 - MASSACRES

One of the consequences of colonisation was the massacre of Indigenous Australians. One of the most well-known massacres was the Myall Creek massacre.

1. Why was this massacre so significant? What happened as a result of this massacre?

2. Research one massacre and write a news article detailing the events. Pretend you are writing at the time that it occurred. The interactive map at <https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/map.php> contains all of the known massacres to date. The 'News Article Structure' and 'Editing Guide' will assist you with your writing.

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Responses to the first six questions will vary from student to student.

What were the short and long term impacts of colonisation on Indigenous Australians (further research may be required)? Were these effects intended or unintended? Explain.

Disease (smallpox, measles, influenza), alcohol (following the arrival of the First Fleet the volume and availability of alcoholic beverages increased significantly – it was used by colonisers in exchange for sexual favours, payment for labour etc. many began using it as a means of escape), massacres, loss of land, decline in population.

One of the consequences of colonisation was the massacre of Indigenous Australians.

One of the most well-known massacres was the Myall Creek massacre.

Why was this massacre so significant? What happened as a result of this massacre?

A large number of massacres of Indigenous Australians took place in the time following the colonisation of Australia in 1788. The Myall Creek massacre is especially significant as it was the only time in Australian history that white men were arrested, charged and hanged for the massacre of Indigenous Australians. Due to the fact that the case was thoroughly investigated and documented, it provides proof of how commonplace massacres were at the time.