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Words that are printed in bold are explained in the Glossary on page 31.

Introduction

Australia is a nation that has been built on migration. Migration is the movement of people from one nation, place or location to another. Since 1788, people from many nations and cultures have come to Australia to make this land their home. But, many thousands of years before 1788, another wave of people came to Australia. These people are Australia's first inhabitants—the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Why People Migrate

People migrate for different reasons. Some people are forced to migrate because a natural disaster has destroyed their homes and their communities. When people in this situation migrate, they are doing so for environmental reasons. Some people are forced to leave their country because of war or because they are persecuted for their political or religious beliefs. These people are moving for political or religious reasons.

Many people move to another country for a better life or to be near family members who have moved. These people are moving for social reasons. Finally, other people move to a different country because they or their employer believes there are better career opportunities for them in that country. These people are moving for economic reasons.

Migration

Migration is either permanent or temporary—that is, people leave their home forever or for only a certain period of time. When a person leaves a country, he or she is said to be *emigrating*. When a person arrives in a country, he or she is said to be *immigrating*.

About This Book

This book explores migration to Australia during the 18th century. But it starts way back many thousands of years. No one knows when the first people came to Australia. Scientists are making important discoveries about early people all the time, but the story of the first Australians remains a bit of a mystery. According to some Indigenous beliefs, people have been in Australia since "the beginning", a time they call the Dreamtime.

The next major wave of migration didn't take place until 1788, when 11 British ships—called the First Fleet—arrived at Botany Bay on the east coast of the Australian **continent** to set up a penal colony. A Second Fleet and a Third Fleet followed, until the colony had a large supply of convicts, and marines to supervise them.



Australia's First Inhabitants

Australia is one of the oldest land masses in the world. The **continent** has been continuously **inhabited** for many thousands of years. Australia's first inhabitants—the first people to live on Australian soil—were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Supercontinent

Until about 8000 years ago, Australia was linked to Tasmania and New Guinea in a supercontinent known as Sahul. **Archaeological** evidence, such as stone and bone **artefacts** and charred animal remains, show that Aboriginal people may have settled on the continent at least 40 000 to 42 000 years ago. However, some scientists think that the first Aboriginal people to inhabit the supercontinent arrived from the north, possibly from South-East Asia during an ice age, which was approximately 50 000 to 60 000 years ago.

At this time, the supercontinent of Sahul was separated from another supercontinent called Sunda, which linked Indonesia with South-East Asia. So, people who migrated from Sunda to Sahul would have had to cross the sea. Approximately 50 000 years ago, the sea level was about 150 metres lower than the present-day level, which would have made the sea voyage possible.

The First Migration

The migration of Aboriginal peoples occurred so long ago that no one really knows what inspired the move. Aboriginal peoples lived a **hunter-gatherer** lifestyle, which meant they were very mobile. It is possible that finding food sources was a factor in the migration.

Rich Culture

Aboriginal peoples have a rich culture based on their religious beliefs. Their traditional laws, customs and beliefs are passed down from generation to generation. They have a spiritual connection to the land, which is central to their day-to-day lives. Their stories about their history and connection to the land are an important part of their society. Many Aboriginal peoples believe that their ancestors were created in Australia and that they have been here forever.

Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Australia's other indigenous group—the Torres Strait Islander peoples—live on a group of islands in the Torres Strait, between the tip of Cape York in Queensland and Papua New Guinea. It is not known when the Torres Strait Islander peoples came to Australia. Because of the islands' remoteness, the Islanders were not affected by the arrival of Europeans until the 19th century.





Aboriginal peoples

or canoes for their migration to Sahul.

may have used rafts

Ancient Aboriginal camp sites with human remains have been discovered at Lake Mungo in New South Wales.

Archaeologists have dated the sites to approximately 40 000 to 42 000 years old. Before these remains were found, scientists thought that Aboriginal peoples had only been in Australia since the end of the last ice age, which was about 20 000 years. Along the shores of Lake Mungo, scientists found evidence that small animals had been cooked on fires. Many burials had also taken place.



The first modern humans migrated from Africa to Asia, and then to Australia.

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Traditional Owners

After migrating to Sahul, Indigenous peoples lived in harmony with the land. Over time, they migrated across Australia from the coastal regions to inland desert. Scientists are unsure as to whether migration across the **continent** happened slowly or rapidly. It is estimated that there were more than 300 000 Indigenous peoples spread across the country at the time of first contact with European people in the 17th century.

Land Estates

Australia's first inhabitants lived in groups, each with their own language. Sizes of groups varied from less than 50 people to many hundreds. Groups of Aboriginal peoples lived in land estates. The estates were marked by features of the land, such as hills or rock formations. The natural resources of the estates varied according to where the land was. At certain times of the year, groups of people from different areas would come together to trade food or resources and conduct ceremonies. People expanded their land estates through relationships with other groups of people.

Linked to the Land

Aboriginal peoples were linked to their land in a special way. They knew their land and resources well. They respected the land by taking only what they needed for survival. Animals including fish were hunted when food was necessary. Aboriginal peoples had an excellent knowledge of indigenous plants, which they used for food and medicine.

Tools were made or adapted to suit the location where they lived. Flaked stone tools were used as spear tips for hunting or as a knife for cutting meat. Some stone tools have been found in areas where the particular stone type doesn't occur naturally. This suggests that the tools were carried long distances, perhaps when people travelled or migrated to different places in Australia. The tools may have been traded with other clans or family groups.

From the Desert to the Coast

Aboriginal peoples who lived in dry desert areas of Australia lived a **nomadic** lifestyle, whereby they moved from place to place in the search of food. Food was more difficult to find in the desert regions. They didn't build permanent houses or structures as they were more inclined to move around.

Aboriginal peoples who lived in coastal areas, or parts of Australia where there was plenty of fresh water, plants and wildlife, lived in more permanent settlements. Food was abundant, so there was no need to keep moving. Complex fishing systems in rivers and creeks were set up with handmade nets.



First Contact

The peaceful and productive life of the first inhabitants changed forever with the arrival of the first Europeans. Some Aboriginal peoples in coastal areas had come into contact with European explorers in the 17th century. This contact was probably brief as the early visitors were on exploration or scientific voyages.

European Visitors

Europeans such as the Dutch and the Spanish were great explorers. Their governments were keen to know exactly what was in the Southern Hemisphere. The first record of a ship in Australian waters was in 1606. Australia was known as *Terra Australis Incognita*, which means "unknown southern land". Dutchman Willem Janszoon Blaeu, captain of the *Duyfken*, and his crew were the first people to chart part of the west coast of Cape York Peninsula and to meet Aboriginal peoples.

It is estimated that between 1606 and 1770, as many as 54 European ships from different countries landed on the shores of Australia and the occupants of these ships met the local people. Many of these ships were merchant trading ships from the Dutch East India Company. Scientific voyages were also undertaken to increase knowledge of the world.

Captain James Cook

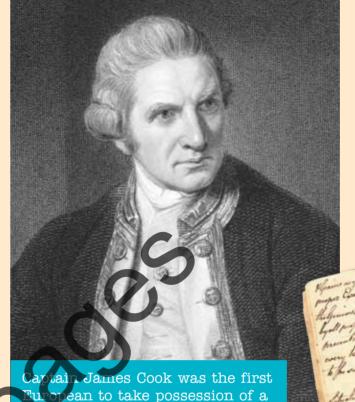
Englishman Captain James Cook made three voyages to the South Pacific between 1768 and 1779. He was given specific instructions from the British government to take possession of New Holland (their name for Australia at the time). Britain was eager to expand its growing empire and to become the most powerful nation in the world. The government also wanted access to natural resources and to control the best trading routes, which would add to their powerful position in Europe.

On 20 April 1770, Cook and his crew, on board the *Endeavour*, reached the southern coast of New Holland. As Cook travelled up the east coast, he sighted fires on the mainland and on the islands, which indicated that the **continent** was **inhabited**.

Secret Instructions

Captain Cook carried secret instructions with him on the *Endeavour*. The secret papers were from the king of England, King George III.

Cook was instructed to discover the southern continent and explore as much of it as he could. He was to gather samples of plants and animals. Cook was directed to take ownership of convenient places in the country, with the consent of the native people by cultivating a friendship with them. On 22 August 1770, Cook carried out the secret instructions and took possession of the east coast. He named it New South Wales.



Cook's Observations

st of Australia.

Cook recorded in his journal that the Indigenous peoples seemed happier than Europeans because they didn't own superficial objects or know what their purpose was.

From what I have said of the Natives of New-Holland they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they are far happier than we Europeans; being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous but the necessary Conveniences so much sought after in Europe, they are happy in not knowing the use of them. They live in Tranquility which is not disturb'd by the Inequality of condition: The Earth and sea of their own accord furnishes them with all things necessary for life...

Journals, p. 17

Cook carried with him on the Endeavour.

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These are the instructions

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