





















Complete this activity page after viewing Section 3: Early Days at Sydney Cove

- Read the description of the behaviour of the convicts soon after they arrived at Sydney Cove in 1788.

*The convicts had been assembled early in the morning, when nine were reported missing. In this situation it was impossible to prevent these people from straggling. Many had visited the French ships in Botany Bay, begging to be taken on board and giving a great deal of trouble.*

*It was soon found that convicts were hiding at least one-third of their tools and that any sort of work was difficult to get from them. The lack of supervisors made this situation possible. Few of the people put in charge of the convicts chose to make use of their authority to keep the gangs at their labour. Petty thefts among the convicts were complained of frequently. The sailors from the transports, although strictly forbidden and punished, still brought alcohol on shore by night and drunken convicts was often the result.*

*David Collins, the Secretary of the Colony.*

- Make a list of the problems that the convicts caused at the Sydney settlement.

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Dixson Galleries, State Library of NSW - DGD 2

- Study the image of these convicts drawn by Felipe Bacca in about 1790. Using the online information and the image, answer the following questions on the back of this sheet.

1. What kind of work do you think these convicts were given in the colony?
2. Were these convicts treated well? Give a reason for your answer.
3. Do you think the convicts' clothes were suitable for life in Australia?

## Questions

Why was it difficult to build shelter for the first colonists at Port Jackson?

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Why could living in tents have been a problem in the first colony?

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