

History

# European Explorers



## For Upper Primary

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Preview

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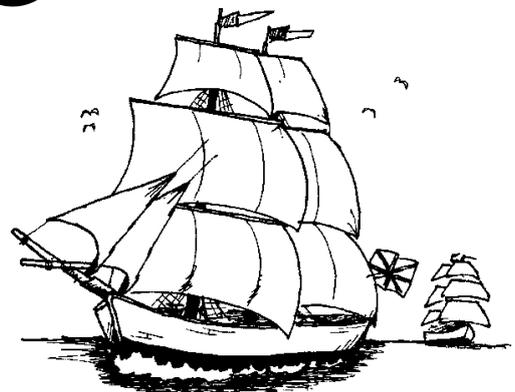
# Expansion of the Colonies 1

By 1820 most of the available land within a 250 kilometre reach of Sydney had been taken up for farming and grazing. Governor Darling tried to stop settlers occupying land beyond the 250 kilometre boundary because it was almost impossible to police these areas. Settlers in remote places could be attacked by Indigenous Australians or menaced by escaped convicts and bushrangers. Darling's efforts to control new settlements outside the set boundary, however, were not successful.

Influential and well-respected pastoralists pushed further into the interior of the country in search of more land to claim for their sheep-runs and cattle. Squatters established cattle stations on Crown Land without any legal right to own the property. Darling knew it would be difficult to remove these pastoralists. In 1836 the government passed the "Squatting Act," which gave squatters the opportunity to settle on land beyond the boundaries for an annual licence fee of £10.

## Why Was Colonisation Expanding Throughout Australia?

After the 1820s, settlers were moving into new areas of the colony of New South Wales at a rapid rate. News had reached Britain and other European nations that Australia was the land of opportunity for "hardworking men." Ships regularly arrived at Australian ports with assisted and non-assisted migrants, who hoped to start a new life away from the social and political problems in Europe at the time. There was also a call to end the "hateful lash" of convict transportation to the Australian colonies.



Migrants were attracted to the Australian colonies because of:

- *the exploration of the interior of the Australian continent which opened up new areas for settlement;*
- *the growth of new settlements at Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, the Swan River in Western Australia and Adelaide in South Australia;*
- *the development of the sheep-grazing industry, which was booming in the low-rainfall regions of the colony. The colony had already earned the reputation of producing first-class fine merino wool;*
- *the discovery of gold and other valuable minerals.*

Settlement

Complete the annotations on this map using information about settlement patterns in the 1820s and 1830s on page 3.

For 10 pounds squatters could ...

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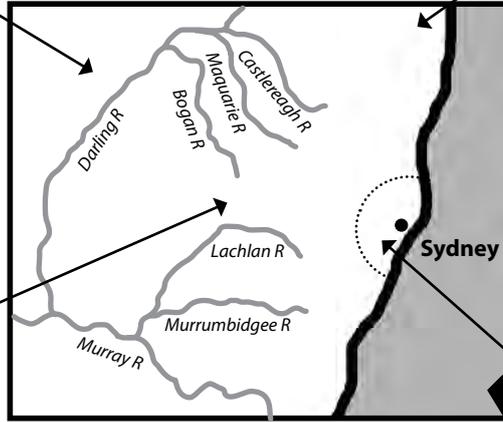
Settlers moved further inland because ...

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It was dangerous to settle outside the 250km limit because ...

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Most of Sydney's farming land ...

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Preview

1. Why couldn't Governor Darling stop pastoralists settling outside the boundaries that he had set?

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2. What attracted people to migrate to the Australian colonies in the 1800s?

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3. Why was the sheep-grazing industry growing in the new colony?

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# Charles Sturt and Internal Exploration 1

John Oxley, the surveyor-general of New South Wales, was convinced that a huge inland sea existed in the heart of the continent. In 1818 he tried to navigate the Macquarie River to its source. His journey ended in an impassable sea of reeds that was named the Macquarie Marshes. Captain Charles Sturt (see image right) was given the task by Governor Darling to finish Oxley's work. Between 1828 and 1846, Sturt led expeditions into the interior of Australia with the aim of solving two mysteries:



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of Australia

- *Did an inland sea really exist in the heart of the Australian continent?*
- *Where did the western rivers of New South Wales flow into the sea?*

## Timeline for Sturt's Expeditions

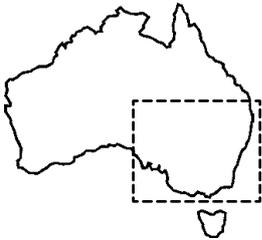
- 1828-1829** Followed the Macquarie River to the Macquarie Marshes. Headed north, then west to cross the Castlereagh and Bogan rivers. Explored a flowing river (The Darling) for 64 kilometres but it turned into a dry riverbed.
- 1829-1830** Traced the Murrumbidgee River until it joined with the Murray River. Discovered that the Murray flowed into the ocean at Lake Alexandrina. Sturt and his party had rowed over 2,900 kilometres along the rivers.
- 1838** Sturt trekked overland from Sydney to Adelaide with 300 head of cattle in 40 days. He proved that the "Hume" River was actually the Murray River.
- 1844-1846** Last attempt to find inland sea. Followed the Darling River to Milparinka to head in central Australia. Discovered the Grey, Stokes and Barrier Ranges, the Diamantina River and Eyre and Cooper Creeks. Pressed on to the Stony (now Sturt) Desert and reached the Simpson Desert. Could not pass the nine-metre high sand hills so Sturt was forced to turn back to Adelaide.

## Sturt's Contribution to Australian Exploration

Sturt's expeditions added greatly to the geographical knowledge of Australia. He settled the question once and for all that there was no inland sea, only immense inland deserts. He found that the Darling and Murrumbidgee both ran into the Murray River and that the Murray emptied into the Southern Ocean at Lake Alexandrina. He navigated the rivers by boat and demonstrated that people and goods could be transported on these waterways. Sturt loved exploring but he paid a high price for his discoveries. He almost lost his sight and suffered ill-health for the rest of his life. He also witnessed the death of his right-hand man and friend, James Poole, from scurvy on the trek back from the heart of Australia.

**Sturt's Expeditions**

- ❑ **Using different coloured pencils:**
  - Trace the route of Sturt's first expedition 1828-1829.
  - Label and shade the Macquarie Marshes.
  - Trace the route of Sturt's second expedition 1829-1830.
  - Label Lake Alexandrina.



1. Why was it important for the colony that the western rivers could be navigated?

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Sturt used a notebook to record what he observed each day, for example:  
*"Great heat. Seldom under 100 °F (38° C) at noon. Relays of natives still following"*

2. Study the painting by J. Macfarlane, then write Sturt's notes about this day's events.



*Sturt threatened by Aborigines at the junction of the Murray and Darling (c.1890).*

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# Ludwig Leichhardt and Internal Exploration 1

The Colonial Office would not give Ludwig Leichhardt the authorisation that he needed for an expedition from Brisbane to Port Essington, near Darwin. The determined explorer decided that he would organise and fund his own expedition. Leichhardt departed from the Darling Downs on October 1st 1844 with a nine-man team, 17 horses, 16 bullocks and enough flour, tea and sugar to hopefully last them during the trek.

Leichhardt's inexperience as a bushman and explorer soon had disastrous results. Among the difficulties the party faced were:

- *not enough food supplies for all to complete the journey; two men had to turn back to Brisbane;*
- *the party was frequently getting lost;*
- *Leichhardt had two teeth knocked out in a fight;*
- *horses drowned after crossing Roper River and research and specimens were lost;*
- *Indigenous Australians attacked the party, badly wounding two men and killing John Gilbert.*

After 15 gruelling months, Leichhardt crossed Arnhem Land and headed towards Port Essington. On the 16th December 1845, the 4,827 kilometre journey was over for the six remaining men. Leichhardt was thankful "the Almighty had enabled me to perform such a long journey..."

## Leichhardt's Achievement

Despite the hardships Leichhardt's expedition experienced, the discoveries made on the trek were valuable for the future development of the Gulf Country of northern Australia. Leichhardt opened up a line of communication between the east coast of Australia and the Gulf of Carpentaria. He described many of the region's rivers, which would provide water for settlements, and declared the land, "an excellent country, available, almost in its whole extent, for pastoral purposes". In 1848 Leichhardt vanished during a third expedition on the Darling Downs.

### Explorer profile

**Name:** Friedrich Wilhem Ludwig Leichhardt.

**Birth:** a farmer's son born in 1813 in Trebatsch, Prussia.

**Education:** studied languages and natural sciences at universities in Berlin, Paris and London.

**Reason for migration:** did not want to do military service. Came to Australia in 1841 to continue his research in natural sciences.

**Interests:** collecting rocks, studying plants and fish, learning about indigenous culture, the sheep industry.

**Ambition:** to find an inland route from New South Wales to Darwin (Port Essington).



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**Activity****Ludwig Leichhardt and Internal Exploration 2**

1. Look at Leichhardt's Explorer Profile on page 6. Make notes in this plus and minus table about Leichhardt's qualifications to be an expedition leader to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Plus	Minus

2. Choose two problems that Leichhardt faced on the expedition. Explain how Leichhardt's inexperience as an explorer might have contributed to the problems.

Problem 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Problem 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Read Leichhardt's own words about the importance of his trek to the Gulf of Carpentaria.**

*"Should a harbour be found at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, which might allow ships to approach and moor in safety, it would not only open this fine country to colonisation, but would allow the produce of the high land of the York Peninsula to be brought down to the Gulf of Carpentaria as well as to the east coast. Cattle and horses could be easily driven from coast to coast, and they would even fatten, as water and feed are everywhere abundant".*

3. Highlight in the text the benefits a good harbour would bring to the Gulf Country.
4. Leichhardt's disappearance in 1848 is an unsolved mystery. Discuss with a partner what you think might have happened to him. Write your theory below.

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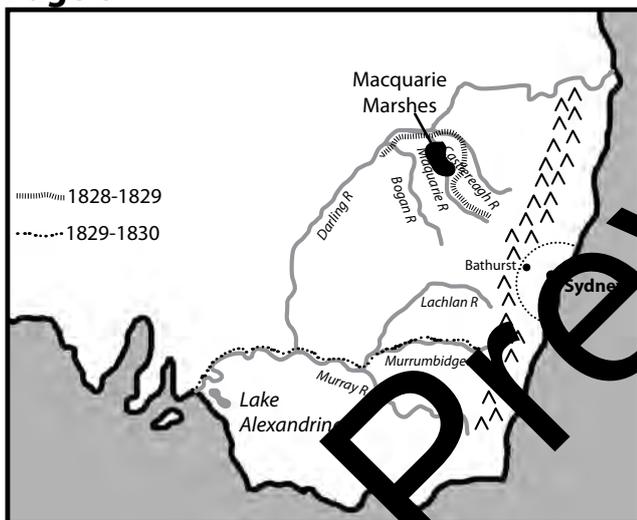
\_\_\_\_\_

## Page 4

Annotation: most of Sydney's farming land had been occupied by settlers by 1820; it was dangerous to settle outside the 250 kilometre limit because settlers could be attacked by convicts, bushrangers or Indigenous Australians; settlers moved further inland to claim large areas of land for their cattle and sheep; for £10 squatters could buy a licence that gave them permission to settle outside the limit. **1.** The pastoralists were wealthy, influential citizens who wanted more free land; there were not enough police to stop people.

**2.** The new settlements in Victoria and South and Western Australia; the discovery of gold and other precious metals; the success of the sheep industry. **3.** The merino sheep adapted well to the low-rainfall country; availability of large tracts of land at no cost.

## Page 6



**1.** The waterways provided an important transport system for the goods produced in remote areas. **2.** Student's interpretation.

## Page 8

**1.** PLUS: interest in natural sciences, interest in indigenous culture, spoke various languages. MINUS: no experience in leading expeditions, young, had only been in Australia for two years.

**2.** Poor orientation and map skills meant he frequently got lost; horses drowned in river; inexperience with river crossings. Indigenous Australians attacked party for trespassing on sacred sites or hunting grounds. **3.** Open the country to colonisation; produce from York Peninsula could be transported from Darwin; cattle could be driven to Darwin for export and be fattened in the Gulf Country. **4.** Student's theory might include attack from Indigenous Australians, mutiny by expedition members, accident.