

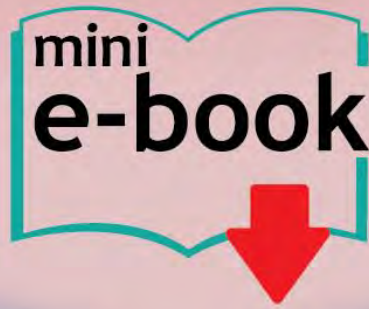


History

Explorers



For Junior Primary



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Preview

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- By the early 1800s, the British had set up many colonies in Australia. They were keen however, to set up more.
- They needed to find new areas of land on which to build more colonies.
- Many brave men set out to discover these new lands.
- Many of these men were never seen again.

Look at this source.



The Burke and Wills Expedition crossing the desert. State Library of Victoria.

1. How does the source explain why many men did not return from journeys of exploration?

2. According to the source, what three ways did explorers travel?

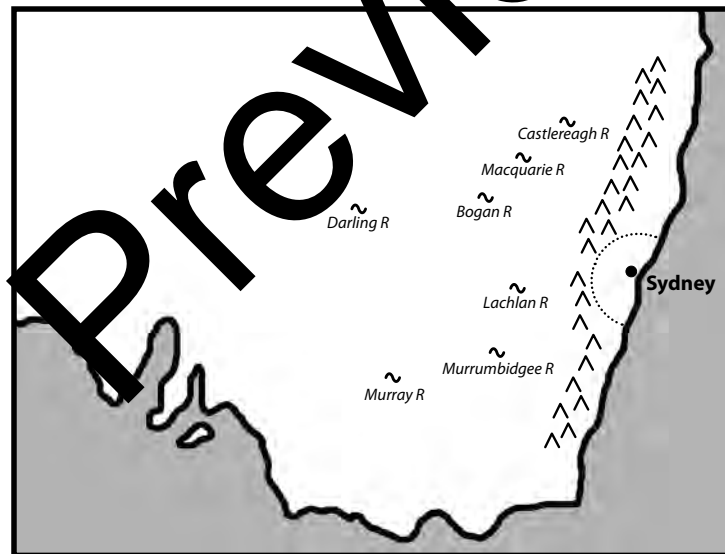
Captain Charles Sturt

- Captain Charles Sturt was an Australian explorer who went on many journeys of exploration between 1828 and 1829.
- He came across many rivers inland of Sydney and proved that they could be used to transport people and goods.
- These rivers were: the Castlereagh River, the Macquarie River, the Bogan River, the Darling River, the Murray River, the Murrumbidgee River and the Lachlan River.
- Sturt became very ill on one of his expeditions and partly lost his sight. Many of his men, including his close friend James Poole, were lost to scurvy on their travels.



Historical Source: National Library of Australia

- Join the rivers on the map to show where Sturt explored.



- Look closely at the historical source at the top of the page. It is a picture of Charles Sturt and his men on one of his expeditions.

1. What difficulty does it show that he and his men faced?

2. Why do you think the Aborigines felt threatened by Sturt and his men?

- Ludwig Leichhardt was the first European to travel from Brisbane to Darwin.
- He came across many rivers which could provide a great water source for more colonies and described the land as suitable for farming.
- In 1848 he vanished without a trace on an inland expedition.

Leichhardt experienced many problems on his first journey in 1844. Some were:

- he ran out of food;
- he frequently got lost;
- he had two teeth knocked out in a fight;
- his horses drowned after crossing Roper River;
- Indigenous Australians attacked his party wounding two men and killing another.



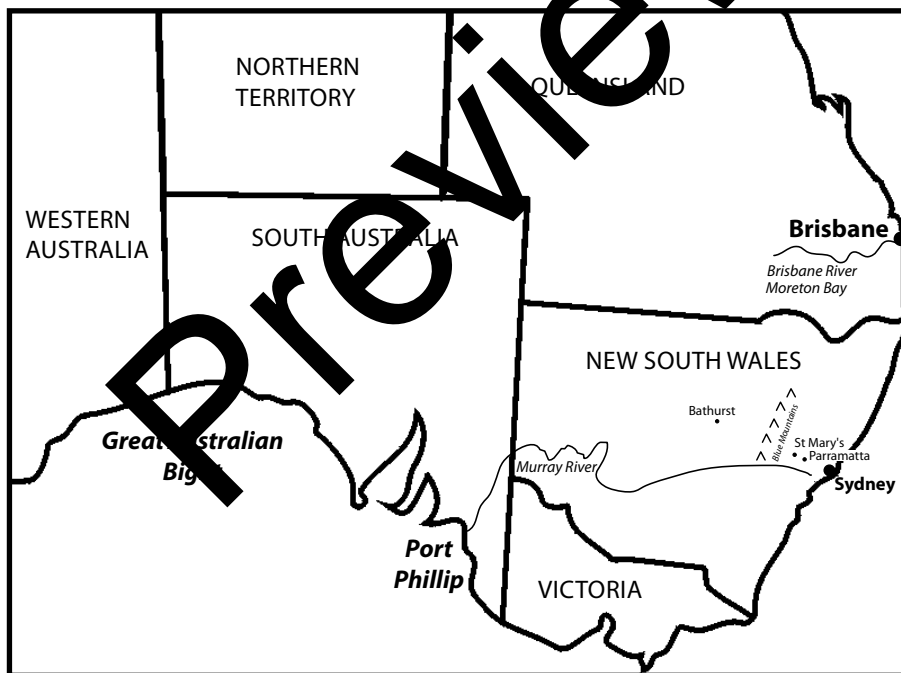
National Library of Australia

- Imagine that you are Leichhardt on your first expedition. Write a letter to your wife telling her about your day.

- What do you think happened to Leichhardt on his final expedition?

- **1813** Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth and William Lawson set off from St Mary's in Sydney's west and crossed the Blue Mountains.
- **1827** John Oxley's exploration of the Brisbane River led to the establishment of Moreton Bay as a convict colony.
- **1828-9** Hamilton Hume and William Hovell crossed the Murray River and discovered excellent farming land as they travelled south to Port Phillip.
- **1844-1846** Edward John Eyre crossed the Great Australian Bight.

Draw different coloured lines to mark the explorers' travels on the map. Create a key to show each explorer's travels.



Key:

Page 3

1. By looking at the source, students should deduce that many explorers did not return from their expeditions because: they were attacked by Indigenous Australians who perceived them as a threat, they suffered heat exhaustion, they lost their way because the terrain was so vast and similar in its appearance, they found the terrain difficult to travel across.

2. The source tells us that explorers travelled on foot, by horse and by camel. Tell students that in the 1800s many explorers began to travel by camel rather than by horse because camels were more suited to the Australian climate and harsh conditions than horses. Camels also did not need a regular supply of water and didn't tire as easily as horses in the heat.

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1. Students should deduce that Charles Sturt and his men were threatened by Indigenous Australians on their travels.

2. Students might suggest that Indigenous Australians felt threatened by Sturt and his men because: they were not known to them, they were armed, they feared that they would spoil and claim the land on which they lived.

Preview