objects

through timeline...

1770

Cook names the east coast of Australia 'New Holland'

Captain James Cook - watercolour on ivory miniature in gold frame, DL Pa 24, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

In 1768, England sent an expedition to Tahiti to chart the transit of Venus across the sun. James Cook, a brilliant Royal Navy navigator and map maker, was in charge of the expedition on the converted coal carrier HMS *Endeavour*. After completing the astronomical task of observing the transit of Venus, Cook set out to see if there was a Great South Land - the land that navigators had believed existed for hundreds of years. After circumnavigating New Zealand, Cook's expedition sailed west for Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) but winds forced the *Endeavour* north and the expedition came upon the east coast of Australia in April 1770. For the next four months, Cook mapped the east coast from Eden to the Gulf of Carpentaria. At a brief and simple ceremony at Botany Bay, Cook named the entire east coast of Australia *New South Wales*.

1788

The American War of independence and Britain's move into the Pacific

The Founding of Australia. By Capt. Arthur Phillip R.N. Sydney Cove, Jan. 26th 1788, Algernon Talmadge R.A, 1937, ML 1222, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

The First Fleet of 11 ships, each one no larger than a Manly ferry, left Portsmouth in 1787 with more than 1480 men, women and children onboard. Although most were British, there were also African, American and French convicts. After a voyage of three months the First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay on 24 January 1788. Here the Aboriginal people, who had lived in isolation for 40,000 years, met the British in an uneasy stand off at what is now known as Frenchmans Beach at La Perouse. On 26 January two French frigates of the Lapérouse expedition sailed into Botany Bay as the British were relocating to Sydney Cove in Port Jackson. The isolation of the Aboriginal people in Australia had finished. European Australia was established in a simple ceremony at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

1790 - 1830s

Exploration of NSW interior & coastline, 13 counties established to control land usage in areas beyond government control. Wool industry developed, farming developed and free settlement begins

A view of part of Parramatta Port Jackson, J.W. Lewin, 1809, PXD 388, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

Between 1789 and 1791, the settlers at Sydney Cove were critically short of food. To make matters worse, the supply ship *Guardian* was wrecked off South Africa before it reached the Colony, and HMS *Sirius*, one of two of the Colony's Navy vessels, was wrecked on Norfolk Island en route to China seeking food. In desperation, the HMS *Supply*, the Colony's second Navy ship, was sent to Indonesia for food. Hopes were raised when a vessel arrived in Port Jackson in 1790, but it was not the *Supply*, but the Second Fleet of five ships carrying over 730 people. This Second Fleet was a disaster, with its human cargo severely abused and exploited by the private ship owners. Of 1000 convicts on board, 267 died and 480 were sick from scurvy, dysentery and fever. The supplies on board the Second Fleet were supposed to feed the convicts, but the ship owners withheld the supplies for sale until after the convicts disembarked. Phillip, enraged by this behaviour as he had to further ration existing supplies, became desperate to establish farms and a local economy.

Farms, established at Rose Hill (Parramatta) and later at Richmond and Windsor, were soon producing crops. Explorers set out to find new land and areas were opened up in the Liverpool area for market gardens, viticulture and sheep grazing for wool.

As the Colony expanded, new land was needed for farms and the new cash crop of wool, with sheep runs getting bigger and bigger. Several ex-army and ex-convict businessmen were becoming wealthy by exporting wool to England. They also had become quite powerful and even deposed a Governor named Bligh who tried to control their business activities. To the west of Sydney, the Blue Mountains presented a physical barrier and the

challenge was set to find a passage. In 1813, explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth crossed the Blue Mountains and found rich grass plains as far as the eye could see. This was an economic bonanza for the New South Wales businessmen. The Government tried to regulate land use by setting up 13 counties radiating out from Sydney for 200 miles in all directions. Land use beyond these was forbidden. This was hard to enforce and businessmen sent shepherds into the frontier to 'squat' and graze sheep. Eventually the businessmen claimed this land as their own and became known as 'squatters'. All the while Aboriginal people were being forced off their homeland and in many cases murdered if they resisted.

Around this time Matthew Flinders was exploring the coastline of New South Wales and New Holland. In 1802-03, Finders circumnavigated the continent and was the first person to use the term *Australia* when referring to the whole continent of New Holland, New South Wales and Van Diemens Land.

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