

The first European contact with Australia began in 1606, but it was not until 1770 that Captain James Cook of England claimed the eastern side of the continent for the British Crown.

The first British colony in Australia was established at Botany Bay, near present-day Sydney.



Superior weaponry and the unintentional transmission of small pox to the continent rendered Aboriginal resistance unsuccessful to European establishment.

Transmission of disease was a common problem with all natives who came in direct contact with colonies from the Europe.



Spears and other primitive weapons are obviously no match for weapons involving gun powder.

After the loss of its American colonies in the American Revolution, Britain began shipping its prisoners to Australia, especially to New South Wales in the southeast of the continent.

This idea of using another country as a penal (prison) colony was not a new idea.

Britain had been releasing prisoners in the America's over 100 years prior to the establishment of the Australian colony.

Because so many citizens of Britain were in jail the idea of transporting prisoners so far away was a welcomed idea that helped alleviate overcrowded prisons.



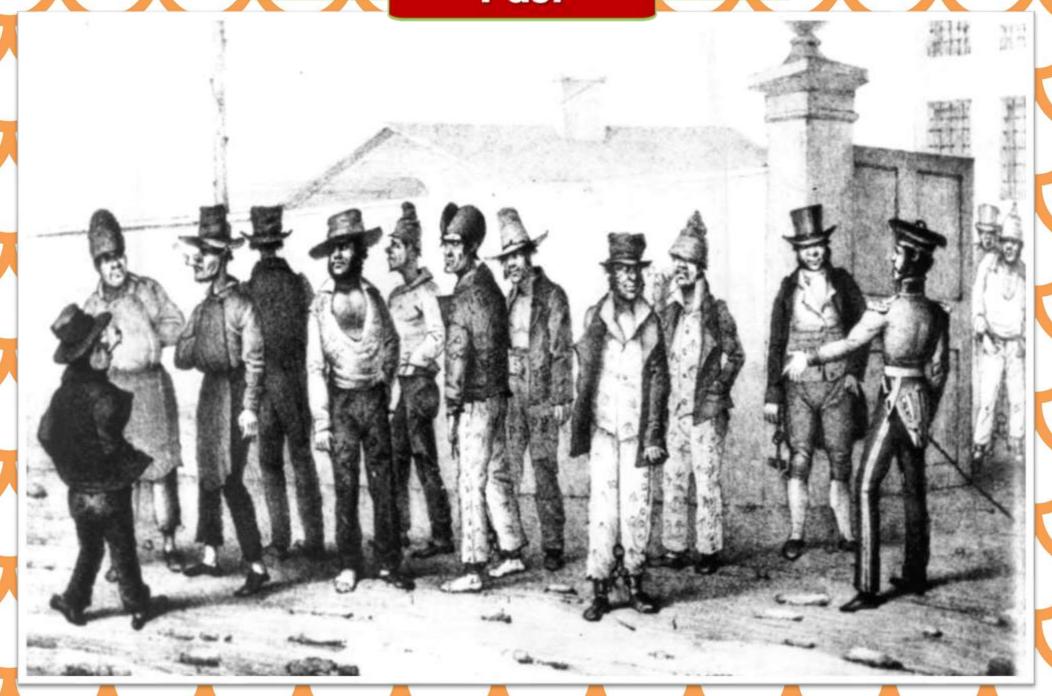
THE LANDING of the CONVICTS at BOTANY BAY

Many convicts were transported for petty crimes like owing debts of which they could not repay, or political prisoners.

More serious crimes, such as rape and murder, were punishable by death, and therefore not transportable offences.

After serving out their sentences in Australia, prisoners were given an option to stay and help colonize the new colony.

Once emancipated, most ex-convicts stayed in Australia and joined the free settlers, with some rising to prominent positions in Australian society.



However, convictism carried a social stigma, and for some later Australians, convict origins would be a source of shame.

Attitudes became more accepting in the 20th century and it is now considered by many Australians to be a cause for celebration to have a convict in one's lineage.

Around 20% of modern Australians are descended from transported convicts.

It is a common myth that many Australians are direct descendants of Britain's most dangerous criminals. This is completely false; instead of transporting dangerous criminals, Britain elected to execute those not trustable on the long Journey to the Australian colony.

#### **Australian Language**

The Aboriginal way of life in modern Australia is markedly different from what it was prior to **European** contact.

Citizens of Australia speak English.

Like many places around the world, Australians have a certain regional dialect much different that its mother country.

Australians use slang (words and phrases) used no were else on the planet but in Australia.

# Aboriginal Language

**English** is the dominant language of the continent.

The Australian Aboriginal languages consist of around 290–363 different languages belonging to an estimated 30 language families.

Out of the 24.1 million people who live in Australia today, only about 48,000 people speak an indigenous language.

That's not even one percent of the entire population!

## Aboriginal Basic Rights

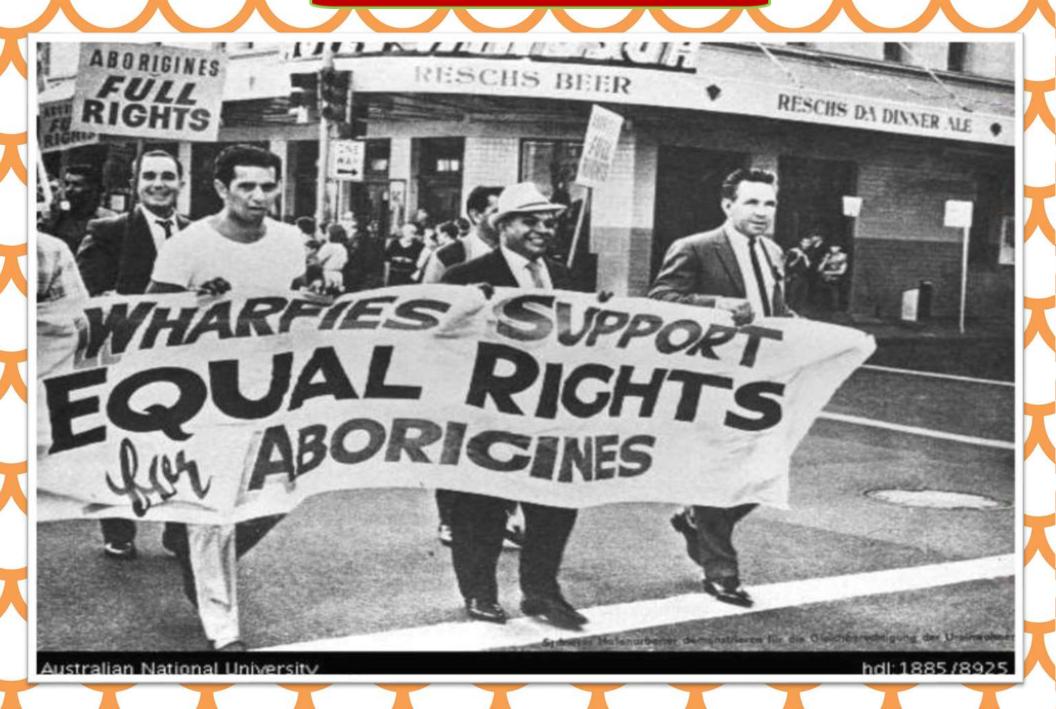
Prior to 1967, Aborigine people were discriminated and mistreated severely.

Even though aboriginal people were the first people to call Australia their home, they were not granted extensive voting rights until 1965, and were not even counted as part of the national census until 1967.

Many Australians began to see how the generations of mistreatment created a cycle of poverty.

Citizens began to protest and new laws were created to help break the poverty cycle of the Aborigines.

## Aboriginal Basic Rights



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#### **Aboriginal Literacy**

In terms of education, Aboriginal school attendance and overall literacy rates, especially in Australia's more remote areas, remains among the lowest of all groups in Australia.

In order to attend a certified school some aboriginal children have to travel hours each day!

This is due to Australia's low population, large size, and remoteness of the outback.

#### **Aboriginal Literacy**

Prior to Britain's establishment, Aborigines were the dominant people of Australia. Today, Aborigines account for less than 3% of the total population.



All dots represent indigenous populations of atleast 50 people, the bigger the dot the larger the population. The largest dots represent 500 people or more.

### **Aboriginal Literacy**

Years of discrimination of the Aborigines has create the following facts:

Sixty percent of Aboriginal children are significantly behind non-Aboriginal children by the time they start Year one.

Only 24% of people in remote communities have a school that goes up only to Year 12.

Only 10% of aboriginal children graduate from twelve grade.

#### **Aboriginal Health**

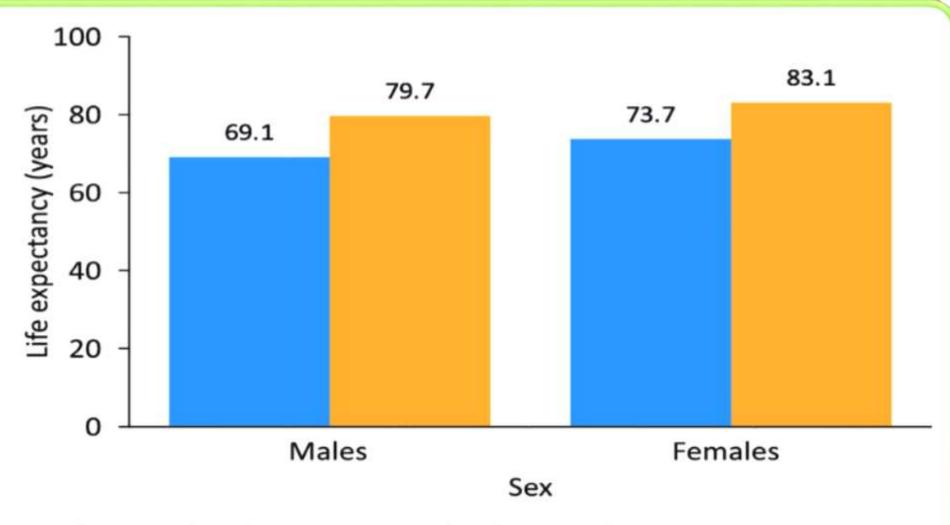
Health concerns persist among Australia's aboriginal peoples as well.

Aboriginal life expectancy is, on average, ten years lower than for non-Aborigines.

Infant mortality rates among Aboriginal women are twice that of non-Aborigines.

Cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attacks and strokes, are currently the number one cause of death among the Aborigines.

### **Aboriginal Health**



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Non-Indigenous Australians