

The First Fleet

Use the words below to complete the passage about the First Fleet.

1788	fleas	England	penal	soil	overcrowded
ships	convicts	rationed	supplies	farming	Eora

The Industrial Revolution brought about many changes in _____ in the late 1700s. The population of cities and towns increased quickly as people moved from farmlands to find work. A shortage of jobs meant that many people were poor and had to steal to survive. Prisons soon became _____. So crowded in fact, that older ships were moored along the river and used as prisons. These were called 'hulks'. As a solution to this overcrowding of the prisons, the British government decided to create a _____ colony in Australia.

The First Fleet departed Portsmouth, England, on 13 May 1787 with more than 1000 _____ on board. The Fleet sailed southwest and reached Rio de Janeiro on 5 August where they stayed for a month. They then sailed east and arrived in Cape Town on 13 October. During these stops they made repairs to the _____ and stocked up on _____. The journey was long and dangerous, with many convicts dying before reaching the new colony. Rats, lice and _____ tormented those on board. In January _____, the First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay.

The new arrivals made contact with the local Indigenous people, the _____. It was decided that Botany Bay was not a suitable place for the settlement due to the poor _____ for crop growing, lack of fresh water and the limited protection the bay would provide.

The Fleet travelled north to Port Jackson and arrived on 26 January. Life in the new colony was tough. Convicts lacked _____ skills and the poor soil made growing crops difficult. Consequently, food was _____. Building materials were limited and were of poor quality. This meant that shelter was a problem for those in the new colony. There was also a shortage of clothing.

Over the course of the following years, more convicts, settlers and supplies were sent from Britain and the new colony grew.

U	S	E	I	L	P	P	U	S	E	T	L	C
S	U	O	N	E	G	I	D	N	I	Z	Y	R
A	T	E	E	L	F	T	Q	S	E	Q	E	K
L	N	R	Y	L	S	Q	E	J	Z	N	G	
T	C	L	K	T	N	G	C	A	I	C	R	N
E	C	O	N	V	I	C	T	S	D	L	U	I
G	N	I	D	W	O	R	C	R	E	V	O	N
P	G	A	H	U	L	K	S	L	G	V	J	O
M	G	U	O	K	T	C	S	S	O	W	P	I
A	S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	T	T
X	S	B	R	I	T	I	S	H	H	U	H	A
N	X	U	X	N	B	M	Z	R	S	C	Q	R
D	Q	J	A	C	K	K	Q	M	R	R	M	L

settlement	fleet	convicts
rationing	Indigenous	British
supplies	hulks	journey
	overcrowding	

The First Fleet **Answers**

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The Industrial Revolution brought about many changes in **England** in the late 1700s. The population of cities and towns increased quickly as people moved from farmlands to find work. A shortage of jobs meant that many people were poor and had to steal to survive. Prisons soon became **overcrowded**. So crowded in fact, that older ships were moored along the river and used as prisons. These were called 'hulks'. As a solution to this overcrowding of the prisons, the British government decided to create a **penal** colony in Australia.

The First Fleet departed Portsmouth, England, on 13 May 1787 with more than 1000 **convicts** on board. The Fleet sailed southwest and reached Rio de Janeiro on 5 August where they stayed for a month. They then sailed east and arrived in Cape Town on 13 October. During these stops they made repairs to the **ships** and stocked up on **supplies**. The journey was long and dangerous, with many convicts dying before reaching the new colony. Rats, lice and **fleas** tormented those on board. In January **1788**, the First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay.

The new arrivals made contact with the local Indigenous people, the **Eora**. It was decided that Botany Bay was not a suitable place for the settlement due to the poor **soil** for crop growing, lack of fresh water and the limited protection the bay would provide.

The Fleet travelled north to Port Jackson and arrived on 26 January. Life in the new colony was tough. Convicts lacked **farming** skills and the poor soil made growing crops difficult. Consequently, food was **rationed**. Building materials were limited and were of poor quality. This meant that shelter was a problem for those in the new colony. There was also a shortage of clothing.

Over the course of the following years, more convicts, settlers and supplies were sent from Britain and the new colony grew.

U	S	E	I	L	P	P	U	S	E	T	L	C
S	U	O	N	E	G	I	D	N	I	Z	Y	R
A	T	E	E	L	F	T	Q	S	E	Q	E	K
L	N	R	Y	L	S	Q	E	J	Z	N	G	
T	C	L	K	T	N	G	C	A	I	C	R	N
E	C	O	N	V	I	C	T	S	D	L	U	I
G	N	I	D	W	O	R	C	R	E	V	O	N
P	G	A	H	U	L	K	S	L	G	V	J	O
M	G	U	O	K	T	C	S	S	O	W	P	I
A	S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	T	T
X	S	B	R	I	T	I	S	H	H	U	H	A
N	X	U	X	N	B	M	Z	R	S	C	Q	R

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