

Cause & Effect

Why Were Convicts Sent to Australia?

Life in England during the Industrial Revolution was very hard. Newly invented machines had taken farming jobs away from workers. As a result, people had moved to cities to look for work. The cities soon became overcrowded and there were not enough jobs for all the new arrivals. This meant that many people were very poor. People stole food and other items simply to survive. In order to reduce crime, the government introduced harsh penalties. Consequently, it wasn't long before prisons were full.

To help ease prison overcrowding, the government used old ships that were no longer able to sail. These floating gaols were called hulks. Hulks were miserable places to be locked up. They were dirty and cramped which meant that diseases spread quickly. These ships were moored in rivers and harbours.

Britain had been sending many convicts to the United States, but due to America's fight for independence, Britain was forced to look for a new place to send their convicts. Britain chose the land we now know as Australia as the site of its new penal colony. In 1787, the First Fleet, consisting of eleven ships, set sail for the new land.

Find five cause-and-effect relationships from the text and show them below.

cause (why?)	→	effect (what happened?)
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect

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Why Were Convicts Sent to Australia? **Answers**

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Find five cause-and-effect relationships from the text & show them below. *Answers may vary*

cause (why?) Machines invented	→	effect (what happened?) Many people lost their job
cause People lost their job	→	effect People moved to cities to look for work
cause People were poor	→	effect People stole food
cause Punishments for crimes was harsh	→	effect Many people sent to prison
cause Prisons were overcrowded	→	effect The government repurposed old ships as floating prisons
cause United States fought for independence	→	effect British government decided to send convicts to Australia