**TEACHER RESOURCE – THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES**
**Colonial Western Australian History – Study of the Swan River Colony 1827 to 1890s**

NATIONAL TRUST

## Historical Milestones - 1492 to 1903

| Year | Eastern Colonies | Western Australia | Britain and the World |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1492 | | | Christopher Columbus crosses the Atlantic Ocean and reaches the Americas. Although evidence of pre-Columbian trans-Atlantic Ocean European contact, Columbus is commonly credited as the first European to see the Americas because of the profound impact his contact had on history. |
| 1498 | | | Vasco De Gama, Portuguese discoverer of a sea route to India, arrives at Calicut India opening the way for European ships to enter the Indian Ocean. |
| 1606 | Captain William Janz of the ship *Duyfken* makes first documented European landing in Australia on west coast of what we now know as Queensland. | | |
| 1607 | | | The Jamestown Settlement Colony (named for King James I of England and VI of Scotland) is the first successful English settlement on the mainland of North America. |
| 1611 | | Dutch Captain Hendrick Brouwer pioneers the route across the southern Indian Ocean. This new route brings Dutch sailors in contact with the western coast of the Great South Land (Australia) for the first time. | |
| 1616 | | Dirk Hartog in the ship *Eendracht,* makes first confirmed landing of a European on Western Australian soil at Cape Inscription. He leaves a pewter plate and names the coastal region in the vicinity Eendrachtsland. | |
| 1620 | | | The ship *Mayflower* sets sail from England to establish a European colony in New England (North America). |
| 1642 | Abel Tasman is first European to map part of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). | | |
| 1644 | Abel Tasman christens the continent we now know as Australia 'New Holland'. The name remains in use for 180 years although after Cook names the east coast New South Wales in 1770 the name more often refers to Western Australia only. | | |
| 1696 | | Dutchman Willem de Vlamingh explores and names the Swan River. | |
| 1697 | | Willem de Vlamingh finds Hartog's plate and replaces it with his own. | |
| 1764 | | | The invention of the Spinning Jenny by Englishman James Hargraves speeds up the spinning process. Inventions such as this lead to the Industrial Revolution. |
| 1770 | Lieutenant James Cook, in command of *HM Bark Endeavour*, lands in Botany Bay (New South Wales) | | |
| 1773 | | | American colonists dressed as Indians, stage the Boston Tea Party to highlight their demand for no taxation without representation. They dump chests of tea from British ships into Boston Harbour. The incident helps spark the American Revolution. It also leads to Britain searching for new colonies for raw materials, new markets and to send convicts. |

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| 1775 | | | The American Revolutionary War begins with the battles of Lexington and Concord. |
| 1776 | | | The American Declaration of Independence is adopted in Philadelphia. |
| 1788 | Captain Arthur Phillip arrives at Botany Bay aboard *HMS Supply* to establish the first European settlement in New South Wales. It is a convict settlement, marking the beginnings of convict transportation to Australia. | | |
| 1789 | | | French Revolution begins. |
| 1791 | | George Vancouver names King George Sound (Albany) and claims the region for Britain. | |
| 1792 | | Frenchman Bruni d'Entrecasteaux in charge of *Researche* and *L'Esperance* reaches Cape Leeuwin, the south west corner of WA, and explores eastward along the southern coast. | |
| 1793 | | | Britain begins war with France. |
| 1794 | | | The British Navy under Lord Howe defeats the French Fleet. The day is celebrated in the Royal Navy as The Glorious First of June. |
| 1799 | | | The spice trading company VOC (United Dutch East India Company) is declared bankrupt and dissolved. |
| 1801 | 1801 - 1803 Matthew Flinders charts the coastline of the continent we now know as Australia. He puts forward the name Australia for the continent then referred to as New South Wales (eastern) and New Holland (western). French explorer Baudin explores Australian coast. | French ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste* under Nicholas Baudin and Emmanuel Hamelin explore much of the coast north from Cape Leeuwin, including the Swan River region. | |
| 1803 | Van Dieman's Land (now Tasmania) settled. | | Napoleonic Wars begin. |
| 1805 | | | A British Royal Navy fleet commanded by Admiral Horatio Nelson defeats the French at Trafalgar. |
| 1809 | The officers of the New South Wales Corps arrest Governor William Bligh in the Rum Rebellion. | | |
| 1810 | Lachlan Macquarie becomes Governor of NSW (1810-1825) | | |
| 1812 | | | The US Congress declared war on Britain. |
| 1815 | | | Battle of Waterloo ends Napoleonic Wars. |
| 1817 | Australian-born Phillip Parker King begins the first of 4 voyages to survey parts of the Australian coast not already examined by Matthew Flinders. King has been described as "the greatest of the early Australian Marine surveyors". | Phillip Parker King and *Mermaid* sail into King George Sound on his way to survey North West coast. One of the crew is John Septimus Roe who would later become the first Surveyor General of Western Australia. | |
| 1818 | January 26, the first official celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of European settlement. Government workers given a holiday - a tradition soon followed by banks and other public offices. | Frenchman Louis de Freycinet takes de Vlamingh plate back to France. After being lost for more than a century it is re-discovered in 1940 in Paris and is now on display in Shipwrecks Galleries in Fremantle. | |

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| 1820 | Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist, dies. Banks sailed with Cook on *HM Bark Endeavour* and was the champion of Botany Bay as a convict colony. | | George IV becomes King of Great Britain and Ireland. |
| 1825 | Ralph Darling is Governor of NSW (1825-1831). The name Australia is officially adopted replacing New Holland. | | |
| 1826 | | Major Edmund Lockyer arrives at King George Sound (Albany) on Christmas day, aboard brig *Amity* to establish outpost of New South Wales. | |
| 1827 | | Captain James Stirling sails from Sydney on board *HMS Success* to explore Swan River area with a view to establishing a permanent settlement on the Western Coast of Australia.<br>Old Farm, Strawberry Hill established in Albany. The property (now much smaller) is owned by the National Trust. The house on site was built in 1836. | |
| 1828 | | HMS *Challenger* under the command of Captain Charles Fremantle sails from England to the Swan River to take possession of the west coast of New Holland.<br>Captain James Stirling appointed Lieutenant Governor.<br>John Septimus Roe appointed Surveyor General. | |
| 1829 | | Near the mouth of the Swan River Captain Charles Fremantle hoists the Union Jack and formally annexes for the British Crown *"…all that part of New Holland which is not included in the territory of New South Wales".* (May 2)<br>Henry W Reveley appointed acting Civil Engineer to design and construct all public works. He designs the Round House the colony's first public building and prison.<br>Captain James Stirling and the *Parmelia* arrive in Cockburn Sound (June 2)<br>Captain Frederick Irwin reads the official proclamation that appoints Captain James Stirling Lieutenant Governor (June 17).<br>The colony of Western Australia proclaimed on Garden Island (June 18).<br>James Stirling takes up land between the Swan and Helena Rivers which he calls Woodbridge. The National Trust now owns the house of the same name which is situated on part of Stirling's original grant.<br>The *Marquis of Anglesea* wrecked on Bathers Beach, Fremantle. Later converted into the Governor's Fremantle office, the Harbour Master's office, the Post Office, a prison and a colonial store. Anglesea Point and Point Marquis at each end of Bathers Beach were named after the ship.<br>Lionel Samson arrives in Fremantle on board *Calista* and establishes what is currently the oldest family business in Australia. The National Trust now owns Samson House built by his son Michael in the 1890s<br>Land set aside for a burial ground on what is now known as East Perth Cemeteries. It is closed in 1899. | Success of Stephenson's steam engine "Rocket" begins the railway age in Britain. |
| 1830 | | *Brig Tranby* arrives in Fremantle bringing Joseph Hardey and family to the Swan River settlement. He begins building the first house at Peninsula Farm, on the Swan River.<br>The towns of Williams and Kojonup are established on the main road to King George Sound. | William IV becomes King of Great Britain and Ireland. |

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| 1831 | | First issue of Perth Gazette is printed. This is the forerunner to the current West Australian newspaper. A wattle and daub, thatched roof cottage built at Old Farm Strawberry Hill. It is destroyed by fire in 1870. The colony's first gaol, The Round House, completed in February. The name Albany formally adopted for the outpost of New South Wales at King George Sound established in December 1826. | |
| 1833 | | First plan of Fremantle issued by John Septimus Roe. | British parliament votes to end slavery in the British colonies. |
| 1834 | | The Pinjarra Massacre, also known as the Battle of Pinjarra, occurs south of Perth. Depending on the source the death toll ranged from 10 to 150. | |
| 1835 | Port Phillip Bay (later called Melbourne) settled. | | |
| 1836 | Colony of South Australia begins. | A two-storey granite extension is built on Old Farm Strawberry Hill (Albany). The building still stands today and is owned by the National Trust. | |
| 1837 | | HMS Beagle calls into King George Sound on the final stages of the round the world voyage 1831-1836. Charles Darwin's voyage in the Beagle leads to the publication of On the Origin of the Species. Bank of Western Australia begins. Fremantle Whaling Company and Perth Whaling Company (based at Carnac Island) formed. In pursuit of their first whale Perth wound the whale and Fremantle capture it. The whale is shared as it is the first one caught by the newly formed companies. | Victoria becomes Queen of Great Britain and Ireland (She reigned from 1837 to 1901). |
| 1838 | Massacre of Aboriginal people at Myall Creek in NSW. | | |
| 1839 | | John Hutt becomes Governor. Aboriginal prison established on Rottnest. Joseph Hardey completes new house at Peninsula Farm. The house, now known as Tranby, still stands and is owned by the National Trust. | |
| 1840 | Transportation of convicts to NSW ends. German migrants came to the Barossa Valley in South Australia 1840s onwards. | | New Zealand became a British colony. |
| 1841 | | Explorer Edward John Eyre arrives in Albany after walking across the Nullarbor Plain from the Eastern States. | |
| 1842 | | Parkhurst boys (prisoners from Parkhurst Prison, UK) arrive in to WA. | |
| 1843 | Mechanical harvesting of wheat invented by John Ridley in South Australia. | Causeway Bridge constructed across the Swan River. | |
| 1844 | | 15 year-old John Gavin (a Parkhurst boy) is the first European legally hanged in the Swan River colony. | |
| 1845 | | New Norcia mission begins. | Potato Famine in Ireland. Many Irish emigrate to America and Australia. Greenwich Mean Time introduced. |
| 1846 | | Andrew Clarke becomes Governor. | |
| 1847 | | General Board of Education opened two government schools. | Economic down turn in England. |
| 1848 | | Charles Fitzgerald becomes Governor. Perth's first secondary school, the Bishop's School, opened. The school started by Bishop Hale is now known as Hale School. | |
| 1850 | | The first 75 convicts arrived on the Scindian with 54 guards and a number of officials and their families. The start of convict era brings a huge boost to labour and public works | |

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| 1851 | Gold discovered in Victoria. | | Isaac Singer invents the sewing machine. |
| 1853 | The last convict ship to Eastern colonies arrives in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) | The *Pyrenees* arrives in Fremantle carrying 293 convicts including Joseph Bolitho Johns, known as Moondyne Joe, WA's only known bushranger. Moondyne Joe is buried in a pauper's grave in the Fremantle Cemetery. | |
| 1854 | Goldminers rebellion Eureka, Ballarat Victoria. Australia's first steam railway used in Melbourne. | | Crimean War (1854-56). Florence Nightingale improves nursing techniques. |
| 1855 | | Arthur Kennedy becomes Governor. | |
| 1856 | Van Diemen's Land renamed Tasmania. Self Government in South Australia. | | Britain takes control of India. |
| 1858 | Australian Rules football begins in Victoria. Non Aboriginal population of Australia reaches one million | | Growing demands for Irish Home Rule increases anti-British feelings. |
| 1859 | 9+Northern New South Wales proclaimed a separate colony with the name Queensland. Eastern colonies linked by telegraph. | | Construction of the Suez Canal begins. Charles Darwin, British naturalist, publishes *'On the Origin of Species'*, which explained his theory of evolution. |
| 1861 | | | American Civil War (1861-65). |
| 1862 | | John Hampton becomes Governor. | |
| 1863 | South Australia annexes the Northern Territory. | | The Red Cross founded by Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant after he witnesses the battle of Solferina in Northern Italy. |
| 1864 | | Government House completed. | |
| 1865 | | | The American Civil War ends and slavery abolished. |
| 1867 | | | Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel takes out the patent for 'extradynamit' (dynamite). |
| 1869 | | The last convict ship *Hougoumont* arrives in Fremantle with 229 convicts including political prisoner John Boyle O'Reilly and 61 other Irish political prisoners, known as the Fenians. The first heliograph signals flashed to Rottnest Island. A heliograph uses reflected sunlight to send messages by morse code. The first telegraph line in the colony, between Perth and Fremantle. Frederick Weld becomes Governor. | |
| 1870 | British troops withdrawn from Australia. Marcus Clarke's book *For the Term of his Natural Life* about the horrors of the convict system in Tasmania published. | 1870 Perth Town Hall completed. The original 1831 wattle and daub and thatched roof house on Old Farm Strawberry Hill Albany, burns down. | The Suez Canal opened in Egypt, greatly shortening the distance by sea between Europe and Australia. |
| 1871 | The Australian Natives' Association (ANA) established in Melbourne. Memberships open to Australian-born males only. | | |
| 1872 | An Australian telegraph line opened to connect Adelaide with Port Darwin and soon extended to link Australia with Java, India and Europe. | | |
| 1874 | | Telegraph opened between Perth and Geraldton via Newcastle (now Toodyay). | |
| 1875 | | William Robinson becomes Governor. *Catalpa*, an American whaling ship, sails from New Bedford USA to begin the mission to rescue Fenian prisoners (Irish political prisoners) from the Convict Establishment, Fremantle (Fremantle Prison). | |

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| 1876 | | Six Fenian prisoners escape from Fremantle to Rockingham and taken by whaleboat to join the *Catalpa*. This is the only successful escape from Fremantle Prison.<br>Grace Bussell and Sam Isaacs rescue survivors of the *SS Georgette*, which is wrecked on the south coast near Cape Naturalist. | |
| 1877 | | Overland telegraph line links Perth to eastern colonies | Thomas Edison invents the phonograph. |
| 1878 | Shearers' Union formed | Harry Ord becomes Governor | |
| 1879 | | | Thomas Edison invents the electric light bulb. |
| 1880 | | William Robinson becomes Governor (second term). | First commercial use of electric lighting in USA. |
| 1881 | The bushranger Ned Kelly hanged in Melbourne. | Perth to Fremantle railway opened. | Louis Pasteur develops immunisation against anthrax. |
| 1883 | | Frederick Broome becomes Governor.<br>Charles Harper purchases Woodbridge farm (now owned by National Trust). | Krakatoa volcanic explosion in Indonesia is heard in the north of Australia. |
| 1885 | | Gold discovered at Halls Creek. Kimberley gold rush begins.<br>Woodbridge House built by Charles Harper on his newly acquired farm is completed. The National Trust now owns the property. | Karl Benz invented the first automobile. Benz Patent Motor wagon (1885 - 1888) |
| 1887 | | The first telephone branch opens in Fremantle. | |
| 1888 | | Electricity first used in WA.<br>Michael Samson begins building Samson House. It is now owned by the National Trust. | |
| 1890 | | Self government proclaimed in WA.<br>Railway opened between Perth and Albany.<br>William Robinson becomes Governor (third term). | Eiffel Tower completed in Paris. |
| 1892 | | Gold discovered at Coolgardie.<br>Work begins on Fremantle Inner Harbour. | |
| 1893 | Economic depression in Eastern Colonies. Worst year of the depression | Gold discovered at Kalgoorlie.<br>Financial downturn in Britain. | |
| 1894 | SA first state to introduce votes for women. | | |
| 1895 | Banjo Patterson's Waltzing Matilda sung in public for the first time in the North Gregory Hotel in Winton, Queensland. | Kings Park is officially opened.<br>Gerard Smith becomes Governor.<br>Western Australia is standardised to be eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. | |
| 1896 | | Political Labour Party founded by Trades and Labour Council | The modern Olympics begin in Athens, Greece.<br>The inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, dies. In his will he leaves money for Nobel Prizes in 6 categories. |
| 1897 | | Fremantle Harbour opens May 4. The steamer *Sultan* is the first vessel. | |
| 1899 | | East Perth Cemeteries closed and replaced by Karrakatta Cemetery | South African War (Boer War1 1899 -1902).<br>Charles Duel, director of the US Patents Office quoted as saying "Everything that can be invented has been invented." |
| 1900 | | The Time Ball begins to operate on Arthur Head, Fremantle. It is dropped at 1 p.m. and used by masters of vessels to rate (check) their chronometers and by the residents of Fremantle for maintaining correct time. Later a gun also fired at 1 p.m. providing an audible signal. | |
| 1901 | Federation | WA becomes part of the Commonwealth of Australia.<br>Arthur Lawley becomes Governor. | |
| 1902 | The first Federal Election in Australia. | CY O'Connor chief engineer commits suicide in Fremantle. | Queen Victoria dies, after a reign of 64 years. |
| 1903 | Australian women vote in a Federal Election for the first time. | Pipeline from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie is opened.<br>Frederick Bedford becomes Governor. | Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first controlled flight in a heavier-than-air machine at Kittyhawk USA. |