## Captain Arthur Phillip – Facts for Students

Australia has a fascinating history spanning millions of years, but it was in 1788 that European settlers arrived. Here we have some interesting information about the First Fleet's captain, Arthur Phillip.

On May 13, 1787 Captain Arthur Phillip led a fleet of 11 ships on a 252-day journey halfway around the world from Portsmouth, England, to New South Wales. They were heading to the recently discovered land of Australia to create a new penal colony.

The Fleet arrived in Botany Bay on January 18, 1788. Captain Phillip had been told, by Sir Joseph Banks, that this area would be perfect for a new settlement. However, this was not the case as it did not have fresh water, the soil was of poor quality, the water was too shallow for the ships to get close to shore and there was nowhere to shelter. They needed to find somewhere more suitable.

The Fleet moved on and arrived in Sydney Cove in Port Jackson on January 26, 1788. This location had everything the settlers needed, including deep water close to the shore, shelter, fresh water and good soil. Sydney Cove was named after Lord Sydney the British Home Secretary.

Captain Arthur Phillip later became the founding Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. He was a strong and determined leader, responsible for the inhabitants of the colony and their survival. The first years of settlement were hard with new crops failing, supply ships not arriving, and failure to develop a harmonious relationship with the local Aboriginal people.

In spite of these hardships, Captain Phillip is remembered for his many achievements. By the time he sailed home in December 1792, the new colony was taking shape. He died on 31 August 1814, aged 75.