

Captain Arthur Phillip Lessons

The following lessons are focussed on the theme of Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet and are designed to accompany the Captain Arthur Phillip's hat craft activity and extend the students' learning. They are written for primary students, but can be adjusted to suit lower or higher year levels.

Curriculum Alignment

Humanities and Social Sciences – History

Inquiry and skills

- Pose a range of questions and engage with a variety of texts to gather information.

History Knowledge and Understanding

- Explore the stories of the First Fleet and the people who travelled on board.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Participating in the lessons will assist students in achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will learn about the beginning of European settlement in Australia.
- Students will consider settlement from various perspectives.

Lessons Ideas

- Research portraits of Captain Arthur Phillip. What do these images tell us about him? What medium (e.g. water colour, oil pastel etc.) do you think the artist has used?
- Students to imagine they are Captain Arthur Phillip. Write a letter or diary entry explaining how he felt before leaving England, when he arrived in Botany Bay and when he finally settled in Sydney Cove.
- The First Fleet left Portsmouth, England in 1787. It travelled to Santa Cruz at Tenerife, then to Rio de Janeiro, then to the Cape of Good Hope, then landed at Botany Bay. Students to mark these locations on a map, then try to work out how far the ships sailed.
- Read *The Rabbits* written by John Marsden and illustrated by Shaun Tan, and discuss how the words and images depict the arrival of European settlers and early settlement. Students to decide if there is a character who depicts Captain Arthur Phillip?
- The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay in 1788. Students to research to find out what else was happening in the world around this time.

Captain Arthur Phillip's Hat

- Students to imagine that they are heading to an unknown land to create a new settlement then make a list of the items that they would take or need.
- Students to imagine that they are in charge of a fleet of ships. What would they name them and why?
- Research the conditions on board the ships. What were some common hardships that the passengers had to face? What do you think everyday life was like aboard the ships? How do students think the conditions varied between the Captain and the convicts?
- Research the life of Captain Arthur Phillip and create a profile or timeline.
- Investigate the various reasons why convicts were transported to Australia. What were their crimes?
- Conduct an internet search to find out what sort of uniforms the naval personnel may have worn around the time of the First Fleet. Sketch some of the common styles. Compare with uniforms worn today. How do they differ?