The Colonial Life Project

**TASK:** Investigate what life was like for different groups of people during the colonial period (1800s). Aim to complete at least three activities from each heading. Highlight tasks once you have completed them.

**Aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants (including Aboriginals, convicts, officials, women, gentlemen, free settlers, etc.)**

- On a Venn Diagram, list similarities and differences between British settlers and the Aboriginal people. Compare and contrast the housing, food, clothing, culture, etc.
- In a group compose an educational "Convict's Rap". Present it to the class.
- In a group investigate the life of a convict. Share their story as a Behind the News style report. This should include why they were sentenced, where they were transported, length of sentence, ship, age, what life is like for them now, punishments, etc. Website: [Convict information](#).
- Investigate how criminals were punished in England in the 1700s and 1800s? Examine the [Case Study of John Walker](#).
- Explore more prisoner records at the [Victorian Crime and Punishment](#) website.
- Depict life of a convict by writing a skit/play about the penal colony. Perform and film it.
- Research the outfits/costumes worn by citizens (including gentlemen, soldiers, sailors, convicts, women). Make replicas and model in class and use in your plays and movies.
- Write a letter from a member of the first settlement to a family member back in England. Tell them about life in the colony.
- Describe the diet of citizens. For example, research the rations of food the convicts were given and the health impacts this had.
- Find either an Indigenous recipe or an early settler’s recipe eaten in the early 1800’s. Cook it and share with the class. Film it.
- Learn about Aboriginal impacts by listening to “Took the Children Away” by Archie Roach on YouTube. Analyse it and present your feelings creatively.
- List the games, with a short description and picture, that children may have played in the 1800’s.
- Make a game played in the early 1800’s to teach to a partner/class. Make a movie.

**How colonial settlement changed the environment.**

- Describe what the Australian landscape would have been like when the First Fleet arrived and then once colonies were established. Paint or draw it.
- List and collect names of native Australian plants. Investigate the impacts British colonisation has had on Australian flora (plants).
- Investigate the impacts British colonisation has had on Australian fauna (animals).
- Identify the animals introduced to Australia and if they are considered a problem Perhaps present as a Mind Map.
- Discuss the expansion of farming.

**The factors that influenced patterns of development.**

- Draw a picture or make a model of what an early settler’s (gentlemen, soldiers, sailors, convicts, women) home/dwelling may have looked like.
- Research early Aboriginal dwellings/shelter and design your own. Write a report on the type of dwelling you will be building and how its features ensured Aboriginal survival.
- Investigate the monetary system (coins and notes) used in the early settlement system, comparing that to Aboriginal culture.
- Investigate methods of transportation (railway, etc.) in the colonial times.

**Other ideas**

- Make a board game based on your findings about the early settlement of Australia. You will need to research some of the problems they encountered to do this properly.
- Create and perform a play depicting an aspect of British colonisation of Australia. Film it.
- Create a movie in the style of a news report about an incident that has effected the citizens (gentlemen, soldiers, sailors, convicts, women and/or Aboriginals).