

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of the First Fleet, including its historical significance, the reasons for its journey, and the experiences of the convicts and crew on board. The student will also engage creatively with the material through various activities.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or markers
- A notebook for writing reflections
- Access to a computer or tablet (optional for research)
- Basic knowledge of Australian history and the concept of transportation of convicts

Activities

- **Timeline Creation:** The student will create a timeline of the First Fleet's journey, marking important dates and events. This will help them visualize the sequence of events and understand the context of the journey.
- **Character Diary:** The student will choose a character (a convict, a sailor, or a ship's officer) and write a diary entry from their perspective. This activity encourages empathy and deeper understanding of the individuals involved.
- **Art Project:** The student will draw or create a 3D model of one of the ships from the First Fleet. They can research what the ships looked like and what life was like on board to make their project more accurate.
- **Group Discussion:** If possible, the student can invite a family member to discuss what they learned about the First Fleet. This allows them to share their knowledge and engage in conversation about history.

Talking Points

- "The First Fleet was made up of 11 ships that left England in 1787 to establish a penal colony in Australia."
- "Many of the people on the ships were convicts who had committed crimes, but they were given a chance to start anew in a different land."
- "The journey took about 8 months! Can you imagine being on a ship for that long?"
- "The fleet arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788, but they eventually moved to Port Jackson, which is now Sydney."
- "Life on the ships was tough. The convicts had to deal with cramped spaces and limited food."
- "The First Fleet is significant because it marked the beginning of European settlement in Australia."
- "The journey was not just about transportation; it was also about exploration and establishing a new community."

- "Do you think the convicts were excited or scared about starting a new life?"
- "The First Fleet included not just convicts but also sailors and officers who were responsible for the journey."
- "Understanding the First Fleet helps us learn about the history of Australia and its people."