



Stories & Suitcases

SUITCASES AND STORIES PRE-FEDERATION MIGRATION

These activity ideas are linked to groups of people who came to Australia before 1901, from convicts who had no choice, to the gold rush fortune seekers and free settlers who came to for a better life.

To Research:

Not all the convicts who came to Australia were from England. They originated from more than twenty-five countries. Make a list of where they came from.

What is emancipation and how did it work?

Consider and discuss the class distinction between the officers and free settlers, emancipated persons and convicts, and indigenous people.

Research the life, work and achievements of Caroline Chisholm.

Find out about quarantine stations. Where were they located? Why were the migrants put into quarantine? What diseases were the authorities worried about? What were the conditions like? How long was the average stay?

To Create: A love token was a coin-sized piece of metal featuring an inscription. When someone was leaving for a long time they gave it to a loved one as a keepsake. Put yourself in the place of a convict being transported to Australia and create your own love token. Who would you be creating the token for?



Love Token: Convict love token 1770s-1820s, 1770s-1820s (00040473) ANMM Collection.

The Charlotte Medal



The museum was the successful bidder for this important piece of our history, acclaimed as Australia's first colonial work of art and providing a unique record of the arrival of the First Fleet. Curator **Kieran Hosty** takes us back to the colony's turbulent birth to tell the story of *The Charlotte Medal*.



OPPOSITE: The Charlotte Medal, obverse and reverse, shown at 120% of actual size. Photographer A Froberg/ANMM

LEFT: First Fleet storeship *Borrowdale*, by Francis Holman, UK c. 1786. Oil on canvas. ANMM collection. This formal ship portrait shows the ship from three different angles, and is the only such record of a First Fleet vessel known to exist.

soon see – made a sorrowful mark on Australian history just a few weeks later. As well as that, the story of *The Charlotte Medal* unfolds as part of a larger historical saga as British power, influence and systems of justice were played out on a global stage.

Since the early 1600s European societies had used the overseas transportation of criminals as a form of punishment. When in 18th-century Britain the death penalty came to be regarded as too severe for crimes such as robbery and larceny, which were previously capital offences, transportation to North America became a common sentence. The American War of Independence (1776–1781) put an end to this mass export of convicts to America, and many of the convicts in Britain's jails were instead housed in the hulks of decommissioned naval vessels on the River Thames and at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Cork and Dublin.

Convicts were first transported to New South Wales under the *Transportation Act* of 1784. Between 1788 and 1868 over 162,000 men, women and children were sent to Australia as convicts on board more than 1,000 modified merchant ships that had been converted into convict transports. The first such fleet of convict transports bound for the east coast of Australia set sail from Spithead on 13 May 1787 and comprised two Royal Navy ships, HMS *Sirius* and HMS *Supply*, three store ships, *Borrowdale*, *Fishburn* and *Golden Grove* and six convict transports, *Alexander*, *Friendship*, *Lady Penrhyn*, *Scarborough*, *Prince of Wales* and *Charlotte*.

IN EARLY July 2008 the Australian National Maritime Museum became aware of the imminent auction of one of the rarest, and at the same time one of the least-known, items of Australian history, *The Charlotte Medal*. This 74-millimetre-wide silver medallion depicting the First Fleet convict transport *Charlotte* at anchor in Botany Bay on the day of her arrival, 20 January 1788, is believed to have been

engraved there sometime between 20–26 January by one of the ship's convicts, the thief, maitreer and forger Thomas Barrett. It's thought that it was made for John White, the Surgeon-General of the First Fleet, who also sailed on *Charlotte*.

Material of any sort from the First Fleet is extremely rare and this piece is a graphic record of the fleet's arrival

The medal was being auctioned by Noble Numismatics for its owner, the Melbourne dentist Dr John Chapman, along with 700 other rare and important Australian, New Zealand and British coins and medals from his collection. The estimate provided by the auction house – in reality a guessimate because *The Charlotte Medal* was a one-off and

appears to have been sold only four times during its 220-year existence – was a figure that would normally have been out of our reach. However concerns about such a rare item associated with the First Fleet being sold and then sent overseas spurred the museum to dig deep.

Topping up our budget with a generous contribution from the National Cultural Heritage Account, we acquired the medal after some tension-filled bidding by our assistant director (collections and exhibitions), Michael Crayford. The winning bid was \$750,000. *The Charlotte Medal* is an immensely exciting acquisition. Material of any sort from the First Fleet is extremely rare and this piece is a graphic record of the fleet's arrival, providing us with a unique portrait of one of the First Fleet vessels. It may be the first art work made in the Australian colony. It is associated with important historical figures, both the principal surgeon of the First Fleet and colony, and the convict who – as we shall

Thomas Barrett – The Charlotte Medal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7LvWkKzR70>

List the crimes of Thomas Barrett before he arrived in Australia.

Where was it thought, that Thomas Barrett learned his skills as an engraver?

Who asked Thomas Barrett to create the Charlotte Medal?

What did Thomas Barrett do to bring about his untimely ending?

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/thomas-barrett-the-man-who-carved-the-charlotte-medal-was-the-first-convict-executed-in-sydney/news-story/f425a72b34736f268f596966bee882c2>

<http://firstfleet.uow.edu.au/details.aspx?surname=&gender=&term=&ship=Charlotte&age=¬ es=&recid=39>

<https://www.sea.museum/2013/11/26/reflections-on-charlotte-medal/>

Play the voyage game

The Voyage is an online game based on real convict voyages. Players make decisions, solve problems and deal with conflicts on a perilous journey across the globe.

<https://www.sea.museum/voyage-game>

The Australian National Maritime Museum site also has a number of resources linked to convicts:

<https://www.sea.museum/learn/teacher-resources/voyage-game>

Indigenous people


To Research

Research why creation stories are important in Indigenous culture.

Research the history your local Indigenous community.

Describe the impact European settlement had on your local or another Indigenous community and their way of life.

Hold a debate between the Minister for Indigenous affairs and the Minister for Immigration to discuss migration to Australia. (Consider the perspectives of different eras 1901, 1950, 1967 and today).

 <p>TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA.</p> <p>FREE GRANTS OF LAND.</p> <p>Severage Passengers paying the full cost of their passage are granted LAND ORDERS of the VALUE of £10 for each person over 15 years of age, and of £5 for each person between 1 year and 15. These Orders are accepted as part payment for any Government Land the holder wishes to purchase.</p> <p>First class and intermediate Cabin passengers receive a Free Grant of Land as follows—30 ACRES for a man, 20 ACRES for his wife, if he has one, and 10 ACRES for each child.</p> <p>ASSISTED PASSAGES</p> <p>Are granted to Mechanics, Labourers, Navvies, Miners, and Domestic Servants, if approved.</p> <p>FAMILIES £12. SINGLE MEN £5. SINGLE WOMEN £3.</p> <p>Applications for Land Order Warrants, assisted Passages, and for general information about the Colony, should be made to the SECRETARY</p> <p>TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION DEPARTMENT 79, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.</p>	<p>Immigration poster for Tasmania</p> <p>Tasmanian Government Emigration Department. Poster advertising free grants of land in Tasmania, Australia. 1880s.</p> <p>ANMM Collection, Object number 00029079</p>
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To emigrate or remain at home was the major decision of a lifetime faced by many families in England and Ireland during the 19th century. The reasons to emigrate were numerous including land clearances (Scotland and Ireland), famine (Ireland), unemployment (England), the desire to get rich or the quest for political and religious freedom (Cornwall, the midlands, Scotland and Ireland). Australia also wanted immigrants to populate the landscape, to support a sustainable economy and to supply labour - even more important after the ending of convict transportation in 1868.

However, the cost of migrating was beyond the means of most families and individuals in England and Ireland, and for many wishing to come to Australia they had to rely on the various Australian state governments who through the sale of land offered assisted passages in return for assignment upon arrival.

Besides these Assisted Emigrants the various Australian Colonial Governments also required people of who were financially independent, who would not be a drain on the state coffers, who could pay their own way and bring vital capital into the local economy. These migrants who could afford to pay their own passage were called 'Free Emigrants'.

Following gold rushes on the Australian mainland many Tasmanian settlers moves up to the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales, the Tasmanian Government desperately needed both Assisted and Free settlers, and advertised throughout England and Ireland for both, encouraging the wealthier potential emigrants to apply by granting them access to free land.

To consider:

What would have been the experiences of the people that took up this offer? Think about differences from the established towns and cities in England to the new established colony of Australia.

Voyage of 1st class and steerage passengers

Many voyages to Australia were undertaken by free settlers and supported passengers. They were difficult and dangerous journeys, and often meant leaving their country of birth never to return.

What do you think the motivation might have been to make the voyage?

Henry Hobhouse Turnton and John Bowden

Watch the videos of [John Bowden](#) and [Henry Hobhouse Turnton](#) and complete the table below.

	John Bowden	Henry Hobhouse Turnton
What year did John and Henry travel to Australia?		
Who did John and Henry travel with?		
What was the food like for John and Henry?		
Describe the accommodation for John and Henry.		
How did John and Henry entertain themselves on the voyage?		

What were the steps that John's family had to undertake before they could migrate to Australia?

Henry was 15 years old when he left England for Australia. How do you think Henry would have felt once he arrived in Australia?

Choose either John or Henry and write a letter back to a family member back in England describing the experiences they had on board the ship and arriving in Australia.

Hot seat in class, comparing the voyages of both John and Henry.

Gold Rushes

To Create: design a chart showing the effects of the gold rushes in Australia. Think about the many areas of impact for example: population, environment, economic, government structures, national identity and indigenous communities,