

***'Across Great Divides: true stories of life at Sydney Cove'*** &  
***'People in Australia's Past: their stories, their achievements'***  
(both non-fiction texts) were researched & developed by Susan Boyer,  
a 'language and literacy' teacher with a passion for Australian History.

**Highlighted text below shows links to *Australian Curriculum History Content Descriptions***

## **Year 4 Level Description** *Historical Knowledge and Understanding*

### **First contacts**

Stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival. ([ACHHK079](#))

The nature of contact between Aboriginal people and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on families and the environment ([ACHHK080](#))

#### **Key Inquiry Questions at year 4 level are:**

- What was life like for Aboriginal peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
- Why did the Europeans settle in Australia?
- What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

## **Year 5 Level Description** *Historical Knowledge and Understanding*

### **The Australian Colonies**

The nature of convict or colonial presence, including the factors that influenced patterns of development, aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants (including Aboriginal Peoples) and how the environment changed. ([ACHHK094](#))

The impact of a significant development or event on a colony... ([ACHHK095](#))

The role that a significant individual or group played in shaping a colony; for example, explorers, farmers, entrepreneurs, artists, writers, humanitarians, religious and political leaders, and Aboriginal peoples. ([ACHHK097](#))

#### **Key Inquiry Questions at year 5 level are:**

- What do we know about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past and how do we know?
- How did colonial settlement change the environment?
- What were significant events & who were the significant people that shaped Australian colonies?

## **Year 9 Level Description** *Historical Knowledge and Understanding*

### **The Making of the Modern World**

Overview content for the making of the modern world includes the following:

nature & extent of movement of peoples in the period (convicts & settlers) ([ACOKFH015](#))

#### **Key Inquiry Questions at year 9 level are:**

- What were the changing features of the movements of people from 1750 to 1918?

#### **Depth study: Movement of peoples (1750 – 1901)**

- The influence of the Industrial Revolution on the movement of peoples throughout the world, including ...convict transportation ([ACDSEH018](#))
- The experiences of ...convicts and free settlers upon departure, their journey abroad, and their reactions on arrival, including the Australian experience ([ACDSEH083](#))
- Changes in the way of life of a group(s) of people who moved to Australia in this period, such as free settlers on the frontier in Australia ([ACDSEH084](#))

Curriculum information source: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

See downloadable comprehension & discussion questions for  
*'Across Great Divides: true stories of life at Sydney Cove'*  
online @ [www.birrongbooks.com](http://www.birrongbooks.com)