

Contact: the language

During the early years of the settlement at Sydney Cove many of the Aboriginal people and the Europeans were friendly towards each other. Governor Phillip had been instructed to make sure that the colonists treated the Aboriginal people with kindness and did not disturb their way of life. He expected that his soldiers, as well as the convicts, would do the same. Unfortunately, this was not always the case. As Phillip himself wrote on 9 July 1788, 'I am still persuaded the natives were not the aggressors'.

The Aboriginal people who lived along the coastal area of Sydney were the Eora people of the Bidjigal group. The earliest written records we have of the Eora were recorded by some of the officers of the First Fleet who were interested in learning the language and customs of the Aboriginal people. The result is that we have been left with useful descriptions and drawings of the Eora people, their language and culture.

Some of the Eora people, like Bennelong, learned to speak, as well as read and write, English. One young Eora woman called Patyegarang became friends with Lieutenant William Dawes, the astronomer of the First Fleet. Patyegarang and Dawes were able to communicate: she taught him her language and he taught her to speak and read English. Dawes recorded Eora words and their English translations in his notebooks that still survive today. His records of their conversations show that both were interested in understanding each other's culture. Patyegarang told Dawes that she was happy to learn from him because he was kind and he gave her food without her having to ask.

Patyegarang clearly communicated to Dawes the feelings of the Eora people about the British settlement. She told Dawes that the Eora people were angry because the colonists had settled on their land. She also said that they were afraid of their guns.

I [Dawes] told her [Patyegarang] that a whiteman had been wounded some days ago when coming from Kadi to Warang and asked her why the black men did it...
[She said,] 'Because they are angry'. 'Why are they angry?',
[I said.] 'Because the white men are settled here', [she replied.]

William Dawes

Here are some of the words and conversations recorded by the First Fleeters:

Tyera barr bowar yaou I shall not become white.

This was said by Patyegarang after I [Dawes] told her if she would wash herself often, she would become white...

William Dawes

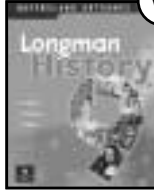
Kangaroo, was a name unknown to them for any animal, until we introduced it. When I showed Colbee the cows brought out in the Gorgon [ship] he asked me if they were 'kangaroos'?

Watkin Tench, 1791

Glossary

<i>Talla-wo-la-data?</i>	Where the hospital stands
<i>Tarra-gara-guy</i>	Where the fisherman's hut is
<i>Gnahn Chiara, gnahn?</i>	What is your name?
<i>We-roong</i>	scar on the back
<i>Co-e, Cow-e, Cwoi, Cowana.</i>	Come here.
<i>Warre-me-warre?</i>	Where have you been?
<i>Woroo-woroo!</i>	Go away!
<i>Beanah</i>	the governor
<i>Mul-la</i>	a man
<i>Wur-ra</i>	a rat
<i>Mur-ra-ong</i>	emu

- Imagine that you are William Dawes and you are recording a conversation you are having with Patyegarang.
- Use the words and expressions provided above to help you write down the conversation.
- Include in Patyegarang's account the following information:
 - a What life was like for the Eora people of Sydney Cove *before* the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.
 - b The reaction of the Eora people when they saw the Europeans landing in Sydney Cove and settling.
 - c How life has changed for the Eora people since the arrival of the Europeans.
 - d Patyegarang's feelings about what has happened to her people and their land.



Aboriginal people

- 1 Find the names of the Aboriginal people that are hidden in the word puzzle.
- 2 Write a description of their activities and achievements in the spaces provided. You will need to do some research

G	Y	Y	U	W	L	U	M	E	P	K	R
I	G	D	J	P	B	K	I	K	U	A	D
N	I	N	D	P	G	J	I	L	R	E	A
I	A	H	O	A	Q	W	I	R	G	E	R
N	G	B	F	L	P	N	A	L	Q	E	R
A	N	R	G	R	E	M	F	I	G	B	A
G	I	X	F	E	A	N	Y	A	U	L	M
U	R	G	I	D	B	P	N	A	F	O	L
R	G	L	N	R	C	Z	V	E	G	C	A
T	Y	A	T	V	E	X	R	V	B	A	G
W	J	B	K	U	L	R	A	M	E	N	N
M	D	D	I	E	W	A	F	O	W	F	V

Aboriginal people

Bennelong	Paddy
Colbee	Pemulwuy
Galmarra	Truganini
Gringai	Wik
Jandamarra	Wylie
Kulin	Yagan
Nemarluk	

Bennelong _____

Colbee _____

Galmarra _____

Gringai _____

Jandamarra _____

Kulin _____

Nemarluk _____

Paddy _____

Pemulwuy _____

Truganini _____

Wik _____

Wylie _____

Yagan _____



Complete the following questions to review the chapter.

1 Write a definition for each of the following:

a colonialism _____

b dispossession _____

c *terra nullius* _____

d paternalism _____

2 Arrange these events in correct chronological order by numbering them from 1 to 5:

a The Myall Creek massacre _____

b Willem Jansz becomes the first recorded European to land in Australia. _____

c Federation: Commonwealth of Australia formed _____

d Captain James Cook sails along the east coast of Australia. _____

e Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet settle at Sydney Cove. _____

3 Explain in your own words how these events affected the Aboriginal people of Australia:

a The establishment of the British colony at Sydney Cove

b Governor Lachlan Macquarie's plan to 'civilise' the Aboriginal people

c The establishment of the Native Police

d The Myall Creek massacre in 1838

e The work of George Augustus Robinson in Tasmania
