

Settling the Swan



Contents

Page

2	Swan River Colony: KWL
3	Understanding Historical Language
4	Mapping the British Empire
6	The Establishment of the Swan River Colony
7	Push Pull
8	Migration to the Swan River Colony
9	Swan River Colony
11	Settling the Swan
13	Challenge
14	Patterns of Settlement
18	Meet the Migrants
19	Using Historical Language
20	Colonisation and the impact on Traditional Owners
24	Reflection

At the end of this unit you should be able to answer the following:

- 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 the significant events and people that shaped Australian colonies?

Swan River Colony: K W L

Know	Wonder	Learned
What do you know about Western Australia prior to European colonisation?	What do you wonder about Western Australia prior to European colonisation?	What have you learned about Western Australia prior to European colonisation?
What do you know about establishment of the Swan River Colony?	What would you like to know about the establishment of the Swan River Colony?	What have you learned about settlement of the Swan River Colony?
What do you know about Peninsula Farm and East Perth Cemeteries?	What would you like to know about Peninsula Farm and East Perth Cemeteries?	What have you learned about Peninsula Farm and East Perth Cemeteries?

Understanding Historical Language

Using a dictionary or internet find the meanings of the words at the bottom of the page. Write the word beside the correct definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
	Trading ship
	Territories ruled by a single authority e.g. the British government
	American colonial fight to end British control, 1775 to 1782
	Creation of a constitutional government e.g. in Western Australia this led to control of its own internal politics and the formation of two houses of parliament
	Policy of extending power over another country
	Mass production of goods by machines, rather than producing goods by hand in houses
	A forceful entry into another territory with the aim of conquest
	Peacefully residing in a location
	Changes to industrial production with widespread economic and social impacts
	Series of wars between Napoleon Bonaparte's French Empire and several European countries, 1803 to 1815
	Exile of convicts to a penal colony
	Land controlled by a powerful country
	Laws made in Britain that allowed "common" land available to peasants to become owned by rich individuals
	A region ruled by a more powerful country (sometimes at a distance)

Empire	Merchant ship	Colonial Empire	American War of Independence
Imperialism	Transportation	Settlement	Enclosure Acts
Industrial Revolution	Colony	Napoleonic Wars	Invasion
Factory system		Self-Government	

Mapping the British Empire

MAPPING THE COLONIES

1. On a map of the world (supplied by your teacher) draw and name the British colonies in 1900.
2. In the table below list ten colonies of the British Empire.
3. Write the resources or products that came from that colony (these are the economic reasons why Britain was involved with that colony).
4. Colour your map, make sure it has a title, trim to fit and then glue it onto page 5.

Colony	Products



Glue your world map here

The Establishment of the Swan River Colony

This map shows the extent of the British Empire in 1900. Use this map and your own research to answer the questions below.



1. Another name for Great Britain
2. The orange areas on the map were countries controlled by Britain in 1900. Together they're called
3. At the height of its power it was said "the sun never sets on the British Empire" What does this mean?
4. Across the world colonies were set up for many reasons. Why was the British Government interested in having colonies?
5. What is the difference between a penal settlement and a free settler colony?
6. Whose exploratory journey in 1827 led to the establishment of the Swan River Colony?
7. A botanist, a doctor and an artist were part of this 1827 journey. Who were they?
8. How did the colonies in Australia differ? What were the reasons for establishing a colony on the Swan River?

Push Pull

Decide whether these reasons might have pushed (forced) or pulled (encouraged) people to migrate to The Swan River Colony from 1829.

Reason	Push or Pull?	Justification
The Swan River Colony was to be the first agricultural colony established for over 100 years.		
Many younger sons of wealthy rural families did not have the opportunity to establish farms because of inheritance laws. Only the eldest son inherited family wealth and land.		
The colony was to be a free colony not a penal colony and was advertised as a 'society of families'.		
Settlers were offered free land grants: 40 acres of land per £3 invested in cash or goods.		
The Industrial Revolution meant many people were unable to find employment.		
An increase in population meant increasing levels of crime and pollution in major cities.		
After the Napoleonic Wars many army and naval personnel were on half pay and had very few prospects of promotion.		
Prices received for farm produce in Britain were falling during the 1820s while taxes and other living costs increased.		
Publicity and propaganda about the new colony led to "Swan River Mania". People were excited to live in a new 'respectable colony'.		
The new colony offered opportunities for promotion and better financial prospects than remaining in England and also a chance for settlers to start a new life.		
The Enclosure Acts ensured land was no longer available for common use.		

Migration to the Swan River Colony

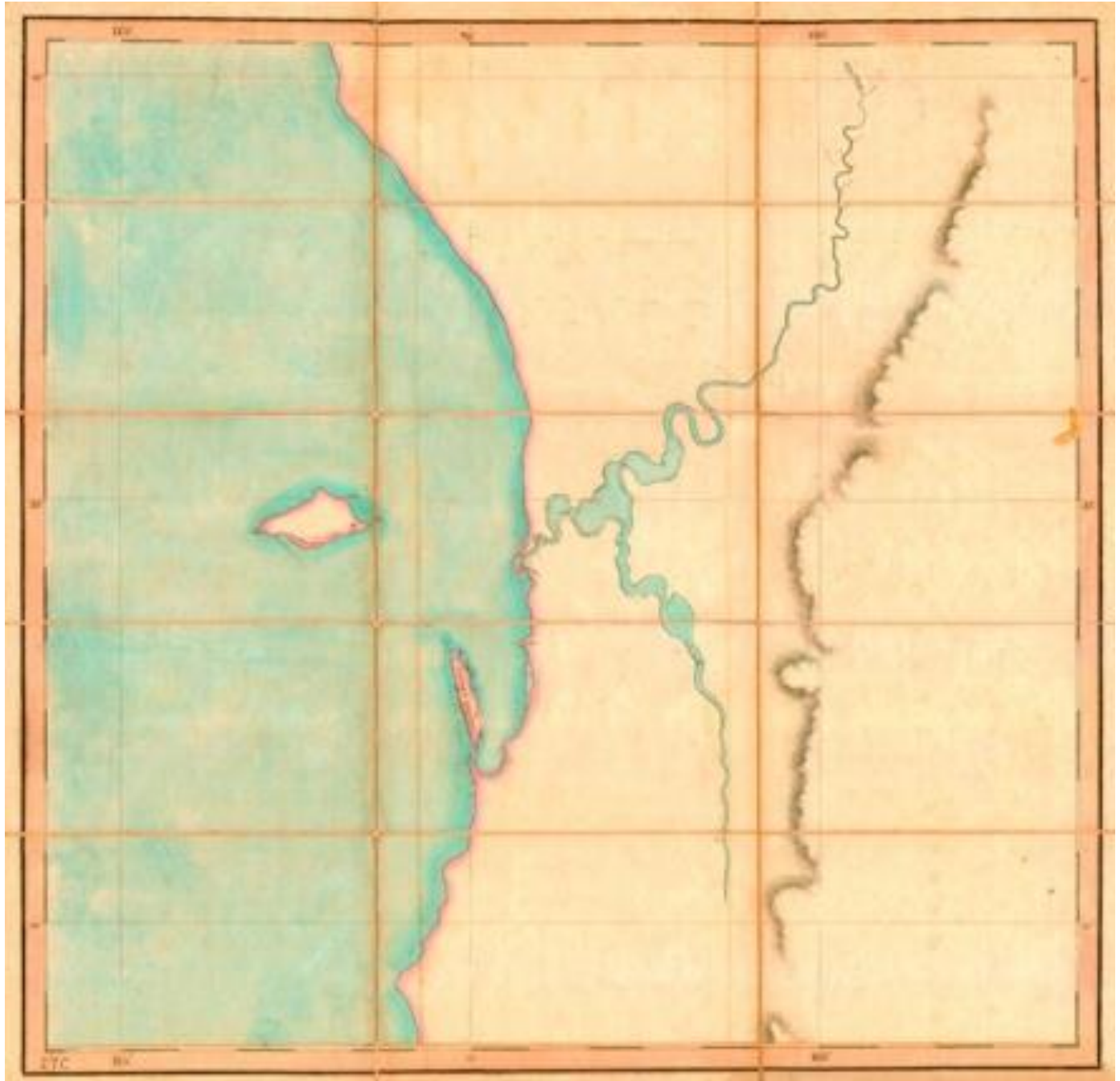
Word match - Research the meaning of the following words and find the closest match in the descriptions below:

immigrate	gentry
emigrate	indigenous
Napoleonic Wars	speculator
embark	syndicates
Industrial Revolution	propaganda
grants	primogeniture
recession	convict

1. Rich or upper class people _____
2. Groups of people working together to make money _____
3. Go on board a ship _____
4. Come into another country _____
5. Fighting between France and Britain 1803 – 1815 _____
6. An economic downturn _____
7. Leave a country to make a home in another country _____
8. A person who is transported for committing a crime _____
9. One sided publicity _____
10. Rapid growth of factories and towns _____
11. Eldest son inherits family property _____
12. A person who invests to make a lot of money _____
13. Land allocated to free settlers _____
14. Originating or occurring naturally in a place _____

Swan River Colony

Map of the Swan River region 1827



Use this map of the Swan River region 1827

1. In small groups decide the BEST site for a European settlement and new capital.
2. Use the list on the following page, which may have given guidance to Captain Stirling, to help you consider what features will be necessary.
3. Mark a location on the blank map for your capital.
4. At the end of the allocated time a spokesperson from your group will convince the class that your choice would be the best site for the capital.

Captain Stirling's position for the capital may have been guided by some of these considerations:

- A port, easy access to trade and naval ships.
- Close to fertile land (colonists' holdings) granted for government officials
- Close to the port but upstream and protected from storms
- Close to somewhere that could be used as a lookout
- Far enough up river to be protected from cannon fire from sea-going enemy ships
- A port protected by an island
- Close to an area where food could be produced
- Near a good supply of tall trees and fresh water springs

Explain why your group chose this location for a capital. Explain the priorities that influenced your decision.

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Do you think Stirling's choice of location for Perth was a good one? Why/Why not?

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Settling the Swan

Using Historical Sources



Source 1: Frederick Garling, *View from Mount Eliza*, 1827, watercolour, 15 x 37 cm.

The National Trust of Western Australia gratefully acknowledges The Janet Holmes à Court Collection for permission to reproduce this work.

Study the painting above by Colonial artist Frederick Garling, *View from Mount Eliza*, 1827

This is a pre-European settlement impression of the Swan River from Mount Eliza painted by a European.

1. Would you say this location (above) was a suitable place to build a capital city? Why/Why not?
2. How do you think the Aboriginal people would have felt about the arrival of the first Europeans?
3. Compare Garling's impression with the painting below by Horace Samson 25 years later, also from Mount Eliza but not the same point. What has changed? What do you think caused these changes?



Source 2: Horace Samson, *Perth, Western Australia, from Mount Eliza*, c1852, watercolour, 40 x 51.4 cm

The National Trust of Western Australia gratefully acknowledges The Janet Holmes à Court Collection for permission to reproduce this work.

Getting into the mind of Captain Fremantle

Source 3 was written by Captain Fremantle in a style of English used during the early 1800s.

Source 3: An extract from *Captain Charles Fremantle's Diary* on the location of Perth. (1829), p 68

"I think the situation of Perth well adapted for a town, certainly preferable to any other spot I have yet seen; it communicates with the sea on one side and with the upper part of the country by the river on the other side of the islands. Unfortunately the Islands stop up all direct communication by water...and perhaps a canal will be cut which will render communication direct with the sea from the source of the river. I wish the soil immediately in the neighbourhood of Perth was a little better..."

Notes to help you understand Captain Fremantle's Diary on the location of Perth

Imagine you are standing on the Perth city foreshore and looking out at the water to the south, Captain Fremantle says this site '*communicates with the sea on one side and with the upper part of the country by the river on the other side of the islands*'

He is referring to the water on his right as part of the sea (or an estuary*) and the water on his left beyond the Causeway, as a river, the Swan River.

The islands he refers to is Heirisson Island where the causeway now crosses the water and marks the boundary between the estuary downstream and the river upstream.

In the case of the Swan River estuary, it connects with the open sea at Fremantle and has one or more rivers flowing into it – the Swan and Canning Rivers. The large bodies of water between Fremantle and Perth which form the estuary also have their own names: Blackwall Reach separates Mosman Park to the west and Bicton to the east. Nedlands in the west is separated from Applecross in the east by Melville Water. Perth Water is located alongside the city.

*An estuary is a partly enclosed coastal body of water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it and with a free connection to the open sea.

What was Captain Fremantle saying? Rewrite the following information in your own words:

"It communicates with the sea on one side"

"The islands stop up all direct communication by water"

"I wish the soil immediately in the neighbourhood of Perth was a little better"

What problem has Captain Fremantle outlined in his diary entry that was one of the biggest trials the European settlers faced?

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Below are the names of some of the people who helped establish the Swan River Colony.

Use a Perth Street Directory or online maps to find as many places (roads, parks, lakes, bays, schools etc) in the Perth Metropolitan Area named after these people. See who is the first to find 30 locations!

Charles Frazer (Fraser)

Captain Charles Fremantle

James Stirling

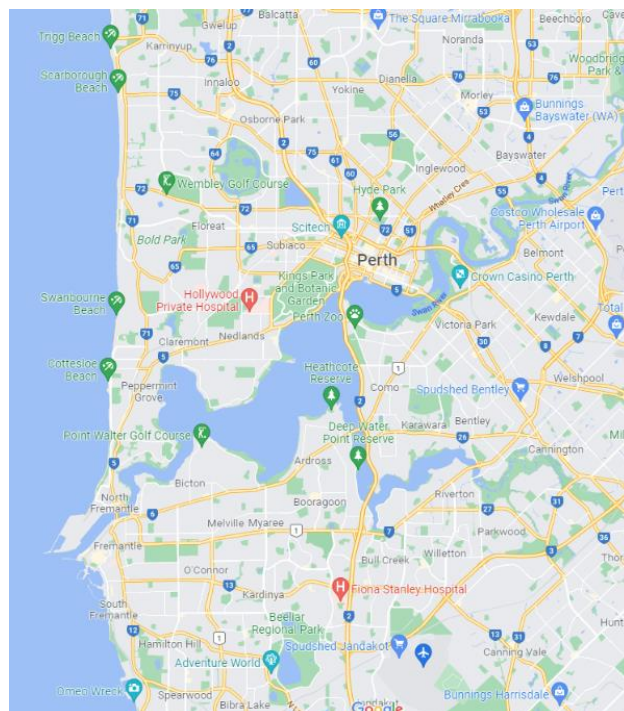
Ellen Stirling

Frederick Irwin

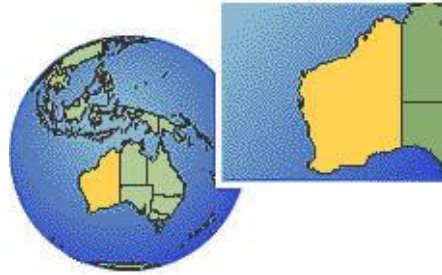
John Septimus Roe

Matilda Roe

Peter Brown (Broun)



Patterns of Settlement



The table below shows the population of the Swan River Colony in 1832. Over the next 70 years the colony's population would increase due to the introduction of convicts as well as the discovery of different resources.

Population distribution in Swan River Colony, April 1832.

Location	Population
Perth	360
Guildford	120
Fremantle	400
Rottneest	25
Clarence	5
Murray Region	30
York	30
Frederickstown (Albany)	60
Augusta	70
Stations along the Swan and Canning Rivers (Garrisons at Williams, Kojonup)	375
TOTAL POPULATION	1497

Source: Westralian History Group, 1985 "On This Side. Themes and Issues in Western Australian History"

TASK: Use the blank map of Western Australia on page 16 to show the location of the expanding Colonial settlement from 1829 to 1900.

1. Locate and clearly name the areas of settlement in the Colony from 1829 to 1900.

Use different colours to show settlement growth. The information in the table on the next page will help you.

- Red: 1829 –1840
- Blue: 1841–1850
- Green: 1851–1860
- Yellow: 1861–1870
- Orange: 1871–1880
- Purple: 1881–1890
- Light Blue: 1891-1900



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Meet the Migrants

The contribution of migrants to the Swan River Colony

The Hardey and Clarkson families arrived in the Swan River Colony on the ship *Tranby* in 1829. They were Methodists (Wesleyans) with strong religious beliefs. These families and those who came with them are an example of a group of free settlers who migrated from England. The families made outstanding contributions to the development of the new colony.

This research activity will help you prepare for a visit to Peninsula Farm to explore the daily life of the Hardey family in the early years of the colony. Information that cannot be found before your visit can be added to after you have visited.

Get creative! Your research could be presented as an interview or power-point presentation, an illustrated diary or poster display in the classroom or in another form. Add additional interesting facts and information that you discover.

1. Find out the names, ages and occupations of the members of the Hardey and Clarkson families who travelled on the *Tranby* leaving Britain in September 1829 and arriving at the Swan River Colony in February 1830.
2. Discover reasons for their decision to migrate to the Swan River Colony.
3. Why did they come on this particular boat? What was the size and design of the *Tranby*?
4. What building, household and farming supplies did they bring with them to the Colony? What else did they bring to help them settle in this new land?
5. How many farm workers and domestic helpers did they bring with them?
6. When the families arrived in WA they had temporary accommodation in Fremantle. Find out something about how people lived at this time.
7. The Hardey family was given land that fronted the river on a peninsula. Why were free settlers keen to have land with river access? What was significant about the peninsula itself?
8. How did families contribute to the settlement of the new Swan River Colony? (Think about how it would have been if only individual people came.)

The Hardey family lived at Peninsula Farm which you can visit, but many families migrated to the Swan River Colony. Use the questions above to research another colonial family. East Perth Cemeteries is the resting place of many families that came to the Swan River Colony. Visit the website for names to start your research: www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au

Use a dictionary or the internet find the meanings of these words.

Using different colours, draw a line to match the word with its correct definition.

TERM	DEFINITION
Mooro Country <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Being pushed to the edge of society
Yellagonga <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal interpretation of settlers as “returning spirits”
Noongar <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land belonging to nobody. British law in Australia 1788 to 1992
Noongar territory <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land in Australia was owned by the British monarch – the crown
Derbarl Yerrigan <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Murder of a group of unresisting people
Kinship <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Combat between opposing forces
Djanga <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A triangular fertile area of south west WA from Geraldton to Cape Leeuwin across to Esperance and then north to Geraldton.
Terra Nullius <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Slang terms once used to describe Aboriginal women and children
Crown Land <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> The tribal leader of Mooro Country “King of Mooro”
Battle <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled fighters in a tribe
Massacre <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal people who have lived in the South West of Australia for over 45,000 years
Frontier conflict <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Noongar name for the Swan River
Warriors <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arguments and violence as settlers moved onto Aboriginal land
Initiation rituals <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Extended family relationships based on skin groups
Gins/ Piccaninnies <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rites of passage into adulthood
Marginalisation <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal land in the vicinity of Perth

Colonisation and the Impact on Traditional Owners

Traditional Owners and British Points of View

Compare the different values and beliefs of the Traditional Owners and the British people who lived in Colonial Australia.

	BRITISH VALUES	TRADITIONAL OWNERS VALUES
	What was the importance of each of these aspects to the British who settled in the Colony?	How would Aboriginal people living in the Swan River region respond to each aspect?
Land Ownership		
Organised Religion		
Clothing and footwear		

	BRITISH VALUES	TRADITIONAL OWNERS VALUES
Possessions (animals, jewellery, tools, medical kits, children's games)		
Education of children		
Housing		
Transport: Land and water		
Family Life		

Cause and Effect

1. Choose one of the themes from your completed table such as land, religion, clothing etc.
2. Consider the point of view (perspective) of either a Traditional Owner or a British person.
3. Write a first person diary entry or narrative. Use your writing to explain why conflict arose between the British people and Traditional Owners.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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Reflection

Think about everything you have learned about the Swan River Colony. Go back to the K W L table on page 2 and look at your questions in the second column. Have you answered all of them? Is there more you would like to know?

Why do you think it is important to learn about the settlement of Western Australia?
