

Overview

Before leaving England, the Command of the First Fleet was given strict instructions to learn about the culture, and live in harmony with the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. In this activity students examine an incident involving contact between the First Fleet and two Aboriginal people in Port Jackson. After listening to documented evidence in a mock trial and considering factors like motive and empathy they will decide if Lieutenant William Bradley is guilty of the kidnap and mistreatment of Bennelong and Colbey.

Outcomes (Stage 4 History)

In completing this activity students will:

- explain the ways that the First Fleet and the Eora people responded to contact with each other
- identify the meaning, purpose and context of accounts by Bradley and Hunter
- identify different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of a contact incident
- select and use appropriate written and other forms, to communicate effectively about the contact incident.

Students learn about	Students learn to
the process of historical inquiry: the usefulness of sources as evidence differing perspectives history as the study of people	ask historical questions draw some conclusions about the usefulness of sources examine differing historical perspectives and interpretations identify significant people of the past examine the motives for Bradley's actions in the past explain the consequences of people's actions
British contact with Aboriginal peoples in the first months of settlement	recall the nature of British contact with Aboriginal peoples in 1788
the consequences of colonisation	explain the results of colonisation for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples

Adapted from History Years 7-10 Syllabus, Board of Studies NSW 2003 at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/pdf_doc/history_710_syl.pdf