AUSVELS: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: **HISTORY YEAR/LEVEL 4**: First Contacts

Key inquiry questions:

* Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?
* What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 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?

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| Key Concepts: sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance. |
| Strand 1: Historical Knowledge & Understanding | Strand 2: Historical Skills |
| **First Contacts** The diversity and longevity of Australia’s first peoples and the ways Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples are connected to Country and Place (land, sea, waterways and skies) and the implications for their daily lives. (ACHHK077)* examining early archaeological sites (for example Nauwalabila, Malakunanja, Devil’s Lair, Lake Mungo, Preminghana) that show the longevity of the Aboriginal people
* mapping the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups in Australia, with particular emphasis on the local area and state/territory
* investigating precontact ways of life of the Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders; their knowledge of their environment including land management practices; their sense of the interconnectedness of Country/Place, People, Culture and Identity; and some of their principles (such as caring for country, caring for each other and respecting all things)
* studying totems in the lives of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and examining the differences between their totems

The journey(s) of AT LEAST ONE world navigator, explorer or trader up to the late eighteenth century, including their contacts with other societies and any impacts. (ACHHK078)**ã*** identifying key individuals and groups who established contacts with Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania during the age of discovery; examining the journey of one or more of these explorers (for example Christopher Columbus, Vasco de Gama, Ferdinand Magellan) using internet mapping tools, and examining their impact on one society
* using navigation maps to reconstruct the journey of one or more explorers investigating networks of exchange between different groups of people

Stories of the First Fleet, including reasons for the journey, who travelled to Australia, and their experiences following arrival. (ACHHK079)* discussing reasons for the First Fleet journey, including an examination of the wide range of crimes punishable by transportation, and looking at the groups who were transported
* discussing the treatment of prisoners at that time, and past and present views on the colonisation of Australia; investigating the daily lives and social standing of those who travelled to Australia on the First Fleet, including families, children and convict guards

The nature of contact between Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders and others, for example, the Macassans and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on, for example families and the environment (ACHHK080) **ã*** investigating contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples before 1788 (for example the repulsion of the Dutch at Cape Keerweer in 1606 and the trade between the Macassans and the Yolngu people)
* comparing the European concept of land ownership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationship with the land and sea, and how this affected relations between them
* exploring early contact history with the British (for example Pemulwuy or the Black War) and the impact that British colonisation had on the lives of Aboriginal people (dispossession, dislocation and the loss of lives through conflict, disease, loss of food sources and medicines)
* exploring whether the interactions between Europeans and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had positive or negative effects
* examining paintings and accounts (by observers such as Watkin Tench and David Collins) to determine the impact of early British colonisation on Aboriginal peoples' country
 | **Chronology, terms & concepts:**Sequence historical people and events(ACHHS081)* placing key events and people of early contact history in chronological order by creating timelines and explaining the sequence

Use historical terms (ACHHS082)* using historical terms when talking about the past (for example ‘penal’, ‘transportation’, ‘navigation’, ‘frontier conflict’, ‘colonisation’)
* identifying the origins of place names in Australia (for example those named by French explorers, Aboriginal place names)

**Historical questions & research:**Pose a range of questions about the past (ACHHS083)* generating questions about the diversity and antiquity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the nature of contact in early Australia (for example 'Who?' 'What?' 'When?' 'Where?' 'Why?' questions)
* posing questions about explorers (for example 'Who were they? 'Where were they from?' 'Where did they go?' 'What did they do?')
* posing questions about the First Fleet (for example 'Why did the First Fleet travel to Australia?' 'Who was on it?' 'What were their stories?' 'What was the journey like?')

Identify sources (ACHHS216)* identifying sources to investigate the story of the First Fleet and its arrival, such as paintings, maps, written records/accounts

**Analysis & use of sources:**Locate relevant information from sources provided (ACHHS084)* finding historical information to determine the nature of colonial settlement, the impact of significant events and the role of individuals in shaping a colony

**Perspectives & interpretations:**Identify different points of view (ACHHS085)* exploring different stories about contact experiences and early penal life to discover the thoughts or feelings of the people at that time (for example convicts, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, convict guards, free settlers)

**Explanation & communication:**Develop texts, particularly narratives (ACHHS086)* listing key events and people’s experiences and linking them together to form a narrative about the past
* recounting the experiences of an individual based on researched facts (for example a biography, diary or journal of a navigator or convict on the First Fleet)

Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS087)* creating charts, pictorial stories, maps, digital and oral presentations to explain the past
* making a podcast that features a story from the First Fleet
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| **Level 4 achievement standard**By the end of Level 4, students explain how and why life changed in the past, and identify aspects of the past that remained the same. They describe the experiences of an individual or group over time. They recognise the significance of events in bringing about change.Students sequence events and people (their lifetime) in chronological order to identify key dates. They pose a range of questions about the past. They identify sources (written, physical, visual, oral), and locate information to answer these questions. They recognise different points of view. Students develop and present texts, including narratives, using historical terms. |

\*This document intends to assist teachers in their implementation of the Australian curriculum through AUSVELS– it combines description and elaboration statements. The blue elaborations are examples of how the learning can be achieved; not a list of tasks that have to be done. Teachers are advised to consult the online documentation to clarify further detail for themselves. The ‘AusVELS’ is the official documentation for Victorian schools.

Cross-curriculum priorities to be included in all learning areas: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures (); Asia and Australia’s engagement with Australia (ã ); Sustainability ()

Reference : <http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/> This grid is an adaption of the information from the VCAA site to create a visual representation to assist teachers.