

Impacts of colonisation - Australia and Aboriginals

Here is Nicholas Young, an English sailor. After sailing to Australia with **CAPTAIN COOK** many years ago, he has returned to live in Australia and has made friends with a young **ABORIGINAL** man named Tedbury or Tjedboro. He is the son of Pemulwuy, an **ABORIGINAL** Australian **WARRIOR** who was known for his **RESISTANCE** to the **BRITISH SETTLEMENT** of **BOTANY BAY** in **NEW SOUTH WALES**.

The two are sitting by a campfire in **SYDNEY**, they are talking about what life was like for **ABORIGINAL** people when the **ENGLISH** first arrived.

When one group of people move to another land and take over that country, it is called **COLONISATION**; the English have **COLONISED** Australia.

AT FIRST, Tedbury explains, we did not mind so much that English people had come here. Australia had been **VISITED** by **TRADERS** and **EXPLORERS** before but they left us alone and **SAILED AWAY** after a couple of days, **LEAVING** us in **PEACE**.

So when the English came on the first fleet, we **WEREN'T** too **WORRIED**. Some of us even **MADE FRIENDS** with the **FARMERS** and **PRISONERS**. We **TRADED** our **FOOD** and **BELONGINGS** for theirs.

Tedbury suddenly frowns. With a serious tone, he tells Nicholas « but then it became clear that the English were not going to sail back to England. They made us leave our campsites and some of them **KIDNAPPED** aboriginal **WOMEN** and **CHILDREN**.

We also started to hear stories about Englishmen using their **GUNS** to **MURDER** many **ABORIGINAL** people. We had to **SEEK REVENGE** and **PROTECT OURSELVES** so we began to **ATTACK** groups of English people and their **HOUSES**. My Dad **KILLED** a very important English man with a spear barbed with small red stones. »

Nicholas hangs his head in silence. His **CHEEKS** burn bright red from **EMBARRASSMENT** and his **HANDS** quiver with **WORRY**. « I am so sorry », he tells Tedbury. « I had no idea it was this bad », Nicholas confesses.

When the English first arrived they did not think that **ANYONE** lived in Australia. Even after they **REALISED** that the Aboriginal people were here, they used the latin term « Terra Nullius », meaning « **NO ONE'S LAND** » because they did not **RECOGNISE** that the Aboriginal people were Australia's **RIGHTFUL OWNERS**.

« This is only some of the destruction caused by English **SETTLERS** », Tedbury explains.

The English also **BROUGHT** with them horrible **DISEASES** like **SMALLPOX** or **INFLUENZA** which have killed many of my Aboriginal friends.

Some other Aboriginal people have become **ADDICTED** to English **ALCOHOL** which ruins their **HEALTH** and makes them very **UNPLEASANT** to be around.

And we have all been **FORCED** to move away from our homes. Aboriginal people have a special **RELATIONSHIP** with the land. The **LAND** of Australia is of extreme importance to our **CULTURE** and our **IDENTITY**.

UNLIKE the English, we don't believe that we **OWN** the **LAND**. **INSTEAD** we believe that it is our job to take care of it.