

## Historical background to 'Stories of Life at Sydney Cove'

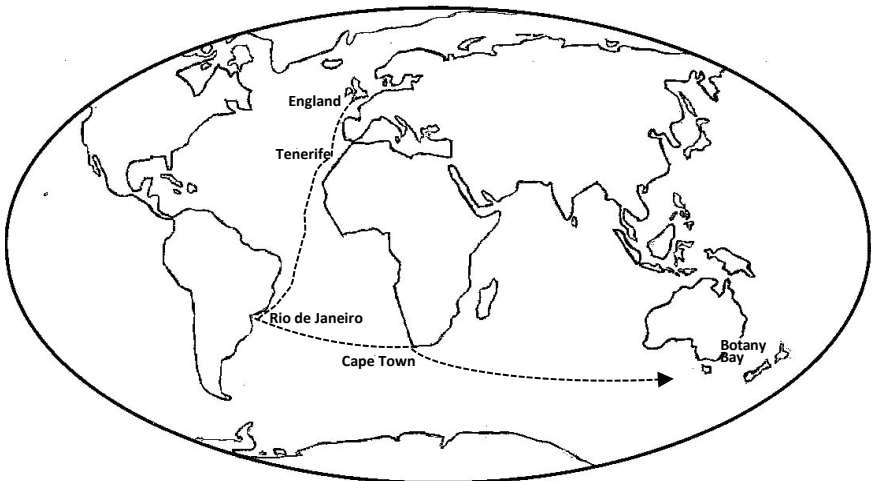
Britain, by the 1780s, was a place of rapid change and upheaval. Farms and village life gave way to factories and crowded cities, and life became uncertain for many families.

People began moving from the countryside to large towns to work for low wages. It was a time when poverty led to crime, and prisons became overcrowded.

The British Government decided to send their criminals away to a distant place on the far side of the world. It seemed the perfect solution to get rid of convicts, and start a colony at the same time. Captain Phillip had the job of organising eleven ships to carry over a thousand people to a mysterious place called 'Botany Bay'. Nobody knew what to expect of the voyage or what life would be like on the edge of the known world.

'Stories of Life at Sydney Cove' is about what happened next...

All the people named in the stories really lived at Sydney Cove. You can see a list of their names on pages 250 – 251 of this book.



The route of the First Fleet May 1787 – January 1788

Note: The world as shown on the map above was not completely known until years after 1788.