



The First Fleet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Convict ships

Conditions on the convict ships were cramped. many convicts were kept below decks and sometimes restrained behind bars. Diseases were common on long sea journeys, and in cramped conditions diseases like dysentary and typhoid would travel quickly and often prove deadly. Sometimes a group of convicts would stage a mutiny and try and take control of the ship, these were usually handled quickly and would often result in the execution of some convicts.

The First Fleet convicts arrived in Australia relatively healthy and in good condition. Convicts on later fleets weren't so lucky, over 260 convicts died on the second fleet!

The First Fleet travelled over 24,000 kilometres from Portsmouth to Botany Bay.



Investigate how convicts were treated on the second or third fleet. Record what you find out:

Use your atlas to find where the fleet stopped at TENERIFE, RIO DE JANEIRO, and CAPE TOWN