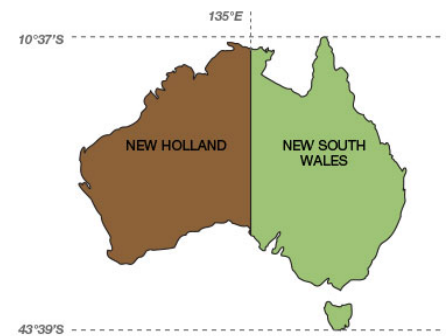


The development of the colonies

1788

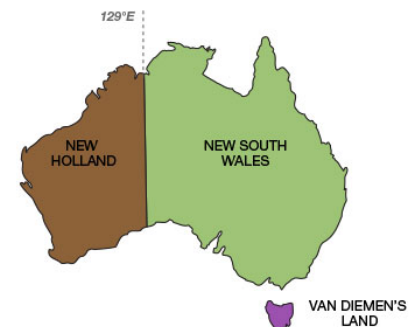
When the First Fleet landed in 1788, the boundaries of New South Wales were set at Cape York in the north, the bottom of Tasmania in the south and the meridian 135° east as the western boundary. There was no limit set to the eastern boundary, so theoretically New Zealand was included as part of New South Wales until 1841.



1825

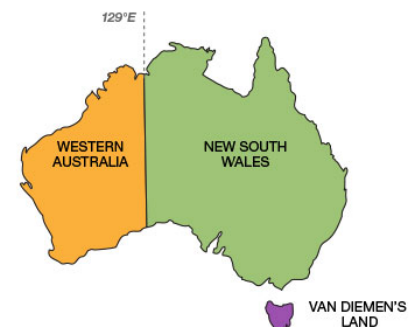
Not all people stayed around Sydney. In the 1790s there were sealers in Van Diemen's Land (named Tasmania from 1856). In 1803 the first official settlement was established to ensure French explorers could not claim it. It became a place of secondary punishment for convicts who had committed crimes in New South Wales. It was declared a separate colony in 1825.

At the same time the border of New South Wales was moved west to include the new settlement of Melville Island.



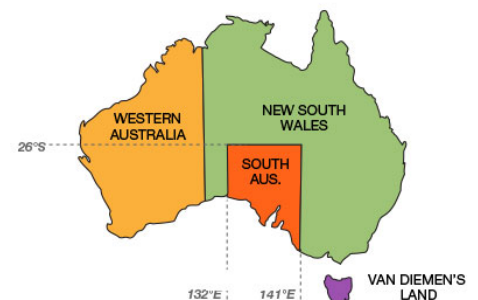
1831

A British settlement of free settlers was established on the Swan River in 1829. Two years later the British government officially claimed the whole of New Holland. It was named Western Australia and its limits set at West Cape Howe (south), Hartog's Island (west) and Cape Londonderry (north), with adjacent islands included. The free settlement failed and from 1850 convicts were sent there to provide cheap labour to develop the economy.



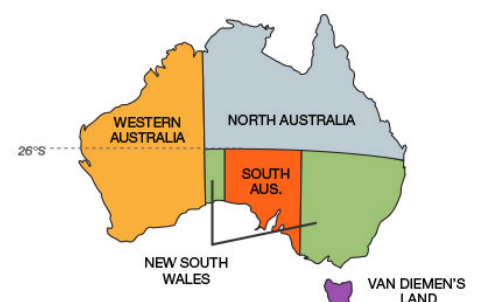
1836

South Australia was established as a free colony in 1836. It was taken from the southern part of New South Wales. Kangaroo Island and other islands were included.



1847

European settlement had slowly been expanding to coastal parts of northern Australia from the 1820s. In 1847 the colony of North Australia was created with its main settlement at Port Curtis. This settlement failed after six months and the new colony was officially reincorporated into New South Wales in 1849.



1851

Parts of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales had been settled by escaped convicts, whalers and sealers from the 1790s. An official settlement was created in 1802 to warn off the French, but was abandoned soon after. In 1836 settlers from Tasmania started bringing large flocks of sheep to the area.

This area became the colony of Victoria in 1851 when it separated from New South Wales. The border was mostly along the Murray River, with a short line from the river to Cape Howe.



1859

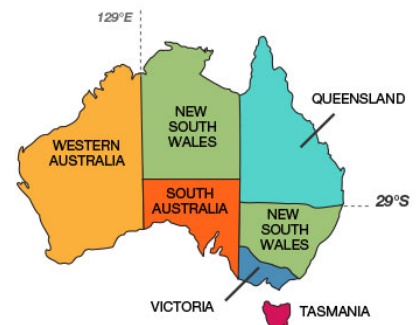
Queensland started with a convict settlement at Moreton Bay in 1824.

Graziers, miners and farmers started colonising the coastal and inland areas. In 1859 Queensland was created by continuing the eastern South Australian border north and separating it from New South Wales, west of Point Danger following the rivers and watersheds and latitude 29° south.



1861

In 1861 South Australia gained the New South Wales 'panhandle' when its western border was continued to the West Australian border.

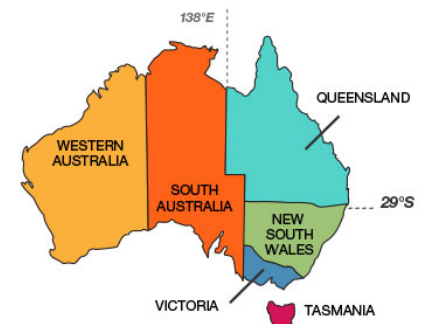


1862-1863

In 1862 Queensland's western boundary, north of latitude 26° south, was moved further west to give it access to a possible northern port.

In 1863 the area of New South Wales north of South Australia was added to South Australia.

These were the final borders of the six colonies at the time of Federation.



Questions

1. Describe briefly how the colonies came to exist by 1900.

2. What were the advantages and disadvantages of six separate colonies?