

## Australia's penal colony



New South Wales, a state in southeast Australia, was founded by the British as a penal colony in 1788. Over the next 80 years, more than 160,000 convicts were transported to Australia from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, in lieu of being given the death penalty.

Today, about 20% of Australians are descendants of convicts, including plenty of prominent citizens. [...]

For at least a century after convict transportation ended in 1868, the Australian colonies tried to hide their founding legacy. But Australia's shame has been

transformed into pride in the last century. The truth about many working-class convicts has helped remove the stigma, since some were children, some did little more than steal a bag of sugar, some were political prisoners, and some were falsely accused.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20120126-travelwise-australias-penal-colony-roots>

1) Pick out the places in the first paragraph:

England

Scotland

Ireland

Wales

Australia

New South Wales

### Vocabulary:

in lieu = instead of

Stigma = a mark of shame

Convict = prisoner

Prominent = important

Say to what this number refers to: 160,000 = convicts / prisoners

Now, pick out the title and explain what it means:

Title: Australia's penal colony

Australia was a penal colony, which belonged to the United Kingdom.

2) Find the antonym of shame in the last paragraph: pride

Explain why Australians felt shame: They were ashamed, because their ancestors were convicts.

Explain why Australia feels pride:

Australians feel proud of their history, given that their ancestors haven't done that much and have been falsely accused.

Recap: Australia is a colony of the United Kingdom that has become proud of its ancestors.

Australian's ancestors are no longer considered as criminals.