



Assessment Date: ____/____/____ Student: _____ Examiner: _____
Words Read Correctly (WRC): _____ Errors: _____ Notes: _____

Swan River Colony

Mr J and Miss Mac

The Swan River Colony was the beginning of a new chapter in Britain's colonisation of Australia. The two main colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land had at first been populated mainly by convicts. The Swan River Colony, founded in 1829, was to be something different, a colony for free men.	13 26 38 52 53
During the first year of settlement the Swan River Colony struggled. Too many people arrived too quickly, and then there were too few. Soon the population began to decline as settlers left for the eastern colonies. Between 1833 and 1834, twelve ships carried 1358 passengers away, leaving a low number of people in the Swan River settlement.	66 79 92 104 110
The settlement suffered for many years. During 1843 and 1844 the colony had a major problem. There was a lack of transport, buildings and ways to communicate, plus a severe shortage of workers. There were not enough workers to keep the colony's farming going. At this point the future of the Swan River Colony didn't look good.	123 136 147 162 167
In 1847 the York Agricultural Society, a group of wealthy farmers, asked the government to consider the introduction of convict labour. They argued that convict workers would help grow the state and allow more farming and building. Many of the settlers believed that the introduction of convicts went against the idea of free settlement under which the colony had been first set up. In particular the settlers who lived close to the main settlement feared that convicts would bring crime and violence to the community.	180 191 203 215 229 243 252

The Swan River Colony was the beginning of a new chapter in Britain's colonisation of Australia. The two main colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land had at first been populated mainly by convicts. The Swan River Colony, founded in 1829, was to be something different, a colony for free men.

During the first year of settlement the Swan River Colony struggled. Too many people arrived too quickly, and then there were too few. Soon the population began to decline as settlers left for the eastern colonies. Between 1833 and 1834, twelve ships carried 1358 passengers away, leaving a low number of people in the Swan River settlement.

The settlement suffered for many years. During 1843 and 1844 the colony had a major problem. There was a lack of transport, buildings and ways to communicate, plus a severe shortage of workers. There were not enough workers to keep the colony's farming going. At this point the future of the Swan River Colony didn't look good.

In 1847 the York Agricultural Society, a group of wealthy farmers, asked the government to consider the introduction of convict labour. They argued that convict workers would help grow the state and allow more farming and building. Many of the settlers believed that the introduction of convicts went against the idea of free settlement under which the colony had been first set up. In particular the settlers who lived close to the main settlement feared that convicts would bring crime and violence to the community.