



# IMPACT OF THE COLONISTS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



**EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT HAD  
A SEVERE AND DEVASTATING  
IMPACT  
ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.**

# COLONIZATION OR INVASION?

The background features a dark, stylized world map. Overlaid on the map are three figures: on the left, a person with a feathered headdress; in the center, a person with a feathered headdress and a necklace; on the right, a person with a feathered headdress. All three figures are bound together by a thick, yellow chain that runs across their chests and shoulders.

## Indigenous People

At least **750 000** Aboriginal people were living in Australia in 1770.

They migrated here more than **50 000** years ago.

Around **600** different tribes and **hundreds** of different languages.

Developed their own way of life in accordance with their religious and spiritual beliefs of the **Dreamtime**.

## European Colonists

Under English law, the continent was considered ***terra nullius*** – ‘land belonging to **no one**’.

# DISPOSSESSION



After the First Fleet arrival to New South Wales, colonial governments gives land to white settlers.

More settlers arrive. Not enough land.

More and more Indigenous sacred sites, hunting grounds and food supplies are taken.

The Aboriginal peoples were believed to be happy to move on to new land, due to the **nomadic nature** of their lifestyle.

As a result, **drastic decline** in their population (killed in violent clashes over the lands or died from malnourishment).

# DISEASES

The Aboriginal people were in danger even **during times of peaceful contact**.

The Aboriginal peoples had **no immunity** to the unfamiliar diseases: chickenpox, smallpox, typhoid, measles, influenza, venereal diseases.

+ **Alcohol** was introduced to the Aboriginal people. Alcoholism became another problem.

# VIOLENT CONFLICTS

The 1834 **Battle of Pinjarra** in Western Australia, the 1838 **Myall Creek Massacre** in New South Wales and the 1843 **Warrigal Creek Massacre** in Victoria are three infamous confrontations in Australian history.

The Aboriginals also got acquainted with **firearms**, which had terrible consequences – different tribes began shooting each other.

# THE BATTLE OF PINJARRA (1834)

28 February 1834

60-80 Aboriginals of the Binjareb tribe  
vs 25 European soldiers and policemen  
lead by Governor **Captain James Stirling**

**15-20** Aboriginal men and **30-40**  
women and children died.

Motivated by **earlier attacks on white settlers** by the Binjareb tribe.

Aboriginals: the settlers were **invading** their land.

Governor Stirling wanted to **affirm his authority** and power over the Aboriginals.

It was a planned attack and carried out by soldiers, so it was **perfectly legal** to the law.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION |