

## Exploration: Flinders' mapping of Australia



*A Voyage to Terra Australis*

In this activity sheet you'll learn about Matthew Flinders' **voyage** to Australia and how he produced and published one of the first complete maps of this continent. You'll also explore one of his maps which appeared in his book *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, and is featured on the Mirror of the World website.

### In the spotlight

*A Voyage to Terra Australis*

Matthew Flinders

1814

### Words to know

Voyage, circumnavigating, fauna, flora

### Place names to know

Port Phillip, Torres Strait, Great Barrier Reef, Timor

### Pages to visit

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/exploration/terra\\_australis/voyage\\_terra\\_australis.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/exploration/terra_australis/voyage_terra_australis.php)

## Matthew Flinders puts Australia on the map

Matthew Flinders was famous for **circumnavigating** (sailing all the way around) Australia. He set out to draw an accurate, complete map. It was also the first good map of **Port Phillip Bay**, where Melbourne would later be (Flinders' maps were so good that they were used for the next 100 years).

He sailed through many wild storms, fierce winds and dangerous waters in his voyages. After crossing the **Great Barrier Reef** and **Torres Strait**, one of his ships had to be repaired in **Timor**. Most of his meetings with Indigenous Australians were friendly and his crew were kept warm and fed. Later, however, one of his crew was speared in the leg after a tense stand-off with guns and spears.

When Matthew Flinders was young he dreamed of being a sailor and he was only fifteen when he joined the Royal Navy. He first became excited by the idea of sailing the high seas after he read the adventure book *Robinson Crusoe*. His real life was also like an adventure book. On his way back to England from Australia, he was arrested by the French as a spy, because England and France were at war. He spent many years in jail. Then, when his book was finally printed, he died the very next day.

## Activity 1 – Get interactive!

Go to the *Voyage to Terra Australis* page featured on the Mirror of the World website. Click on the Zoom & Pan interactive link. Click anywhere along the coastline and zoom in several times until you can read the names on the map. Can you recognise any of the place names?

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/exploration/terra\\_australis/flinders/online.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/exploration/terra_australis/flinders/online.php)

**Activity 2 – Following Flinders**

Use the map below to draw where Flinders sailed around Australia in 1801-02 and 1802-03. Use two different colours for each voyage and don't forget to colour the key.

Now use Flinders' map on the website to help you place these names in the correct locations:

Botany Bay  
Spencer's Gulf  
Kangaroo Island

Philip Island  
Timor

Cape Leeuwin  
Port Phillip

Torres Strait  
Gulf of Carpentaria

Voyages of Flinders

Key  
1801-02 -----  
1802-03 -----



Now try to describe Flinders' two voyages, using place names and navigational directions. For example, Sail north-west past the Great Barrier Reef 20° latitude to Torres Strait 140° longitude.

**Question time 1**

1. Which city is located at Port Jackson?

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2. Which city is now near Cape Leeuwin?

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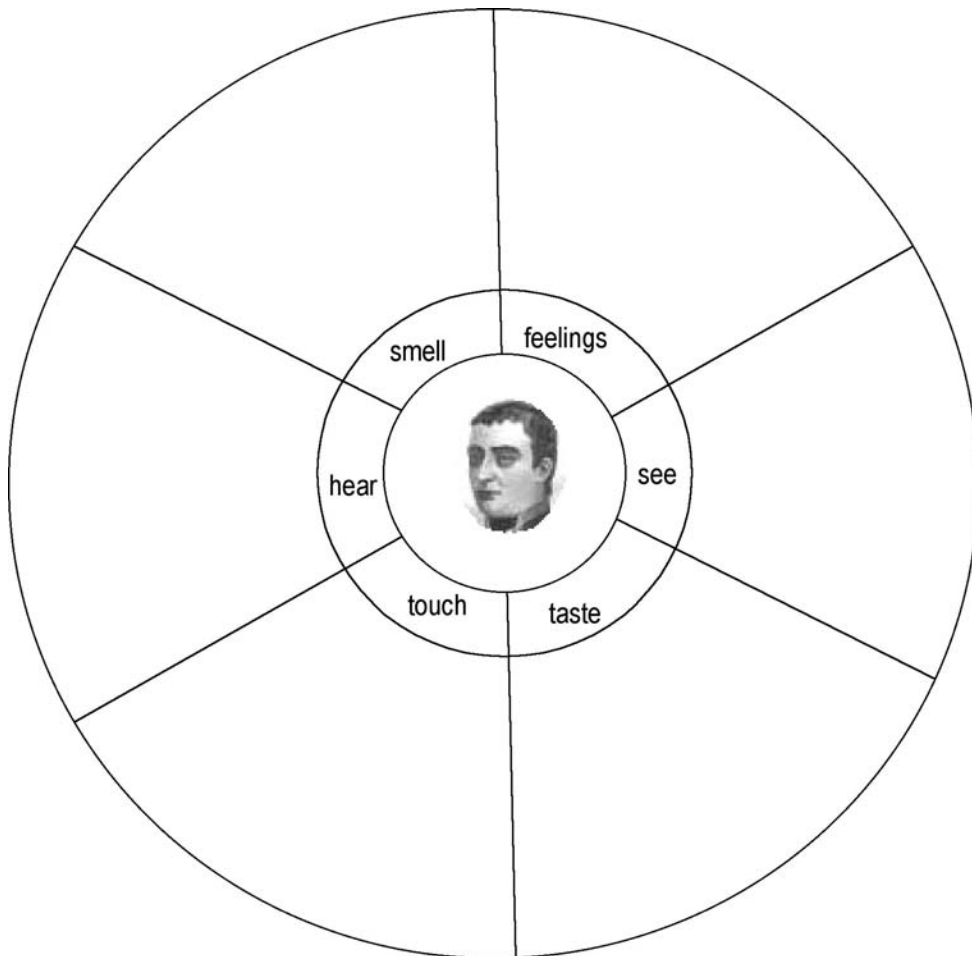
3. What does HMS stand for?

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**Activity 3 – Journey of the senses**

Flinders was at sea for a long time. Imagine how it feels to be away from home for so long. The sun is hot and there is not much food or water to eat or drink. On your way home you are arrested. You miss your family very much.

Fill in this sensory wheel to describe how you feel.



**Activity 4 – In the name of Flinders**

How many places can you think of that are named after Matthew Flinders? There are many in Australia, for example, suburbs, mountains and streets. Use the index of an atlas or street directory to find at least seven examples.

**Naming Melbourne**

During Flinders' time there was no European settlement at Port Phillip Bay where Melbourne is today, but he was the first person to create a really good map of the area.

The original Melbournians, who lived there at that time, were called the Kulin Nation. Believe it or not, you probably already know some words from their language. For example, 'Yarra' is their word for 'river'. Many towns and suburbs come from Aboriginal languages, for example: Canberra, Mordialloc, Werribee and Wagga Wagga. John Batman, one of the first Europeans to live at Port Phillip Bay wanted to call the area 'Batmania'. Before the name of Melbourne, there had been many other names and suggestions for names. Some of them were:

- |           |              |             |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Bearbrass | Birr-arrung  | Bararing    |
| Barrern   | Doutta-Galla | Dutti-Galla |
| Batmania  | Glenelg      | Phillip     |

**Question time 2**

1. Which names do you think are Aboriginal and which names do you think are English?

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2. Can you think of a better name for Melbourne? What, or who, would you name it after – and why?

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**Did you know?**

Matthew Flinders was the first person to name Australia on a map. Before that the east was called New South Wales, and the west was called New Holland or *Terra Australis*.

