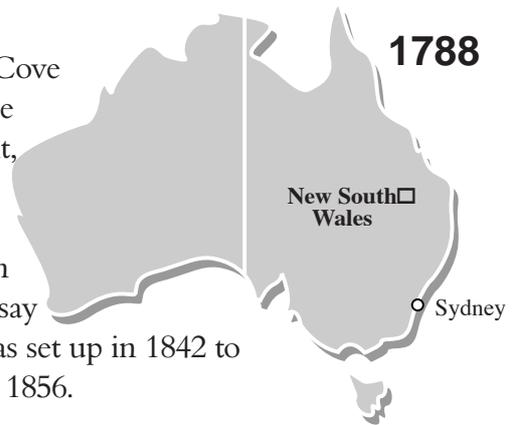


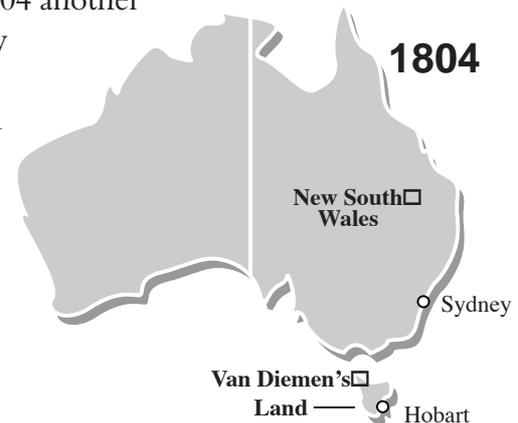
New South Wales

The first European settlement was established at Sydney Cove in 1788. Named New South Wales, it covered most of the known continent. Originally set up as a convict settlement, the colony was placed under the rule of a single military governor. The settlement quickly expanded many times over with free settlers outnumbering convicts. The British Government decided that the free settlers should have a say in government and a partly-elected Legislative Council was set up in 1842 to make laws. The first New South Wales Parliament met in 1856.



Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land)

In 1804 the first Europeans settled at Hobart. Later in 1804 another settlement was set up at the site of Launceston. For many years the two settlements operated separately under the control of the New South Wales Governor. By 1824 Van Diemen's Land grew important and wealthy in its own right and some of the most well-to-do citizens wrote to the British king requesting that Van Diemen's Land be declared a separate colony. This occurred in 1825. The name, however, was not changed to Tasmania until 1856, the year that the Tasmanian Parliament met for the first time.



Western Australia

In the 1820s the British Government was worried that the French were planning to establish a colony on the western coast of Australia. To prevent this, the British Government decided that it should establish a colony on the western coastline. In 1829 the Swan River Colony was established. This colony was the first free colony to be founded in Australia. The British Government decided that the settlers would be given land, and many rich settlers came from England to settle the colony. Unfortunately, there were too many landowners and not enough labourers to do the work. The colonists requested that convicts be sent to work the land. Convicts were sent between 1850 and 1868. Western Australia achieved self-government in 1890. Its first parliament met in the same year.



South Australia

South Australia was a free settlement which never received convicts. The British Government declared it a colony in 1836 and a military governor was installed. The land was sold and only rich settlers could afford to buy land. The money earned from the sale of land was then used to pay the fares of the labourers needed to work the land. The first settlers were sent to Kangaroo Island, which was found to be unsuitable, and they moved to the present site of Adelaide. South Australia achieved self-government in 1857.



Victoria

In 1803 a party of soldiers, convicts and free settlers was sent to establish a colony at the mouth of Port Phillip. After a short time it was decided that the land was unsuitable and the settlement was moved to better land in Van Diemen's Land. From 1834 settlers arrived from Van Diemen's Land and north of the Murray River. The settlement was still considered part of New South Wales despite being so far away. Finally in 1851 it became a separate colony and was named Victoria in honour of the Queen. The first Victorian Parliament met in 1856.



Queensland

In 1824 a convict settlement was established at Moreton Bay on the Brisbane River, far away from any other settlements. This penal colony was for the worst offenders and free settlers were kept well away from the area. But by 1842 the convicts had left and the land around the town of Brisbane was becoming a thriving community with the settlers less than happy about being ruled by a government set up in faraway Sydney. After years of lobbying by the settlers the new colony of Queensland was created, with its own separate parliament, in 1859.

