The history of Australia

1 Leggi il brano. Scrivi i titoli dei paragrafi al posto corretto.

Emigration in the 19th century   Australia becomes a federation
Britain and Australia in the 20th century   British colonisation   Early exploration

1 Early exploration
The native people of Australia are the Aborigines. They have lived there for more than 60,000 years. From the 1st century other explorers from Asia visited the island.
In the early 17th century, Europeans arrived, especially from Portugal and Holland, but Europeans did not settle in Australia till around the 17th and 18th centuries.

2 In 1770 Captain James Cook from England landed on the east coast of Australia. He named it ‘New South Wales’. The area became part of the British Empire. Life in Britain was very hard at that time. There was a lot of crime and prisons weren’t big enough for all the prisoners. The government started sending prisoners to another country far away. In the 17th and 18th centuries, this country was North America. When America became independent in 1783, the British government had to find another country for convicts. Australia was the perfect solution. In 1787, eleven ships sailed to Australia from Portsmouth. Half of the people on the ships were convicts. They arrived in New South Wales on 20th January 1788. They found the perfect place to start a colony, and named it Sydney, after the British Home Secretary. It is now Australia’s largest city.

3 Convicts were not the only people to go to Australia. From the 1800s, many Britons, and later Europeans, left their home country to start a new life there. Sheep farming became an important industry and, in 1851, when they discovered gold, immigration increased. From 1850 to 1860 the population grew from 400,000 to 1.2 million.

4 There were six colonies in Australia: New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. On 1st January 1901, the six colonies became a federation of states called the Commonwealth of Australia.

5 After World War II, the Australian government encouraged immigration, to help build up the economy. In the twenty years after the end of the war, more than 2 million people moved to Australia from Europe, mostly from Britain. During the 20th century, Australia became more independent from Britain. The Australia Act of 1986 meant that the Australian government, not Britain, made all the laws in Australia. However, the Queen is still Australia’s monarch.

Glossary

- native: nativo
- explorer: esploratore
- settle: insediarsi
- fertile: fertile
- crime: delinquenza
- prison: prigione
- prisoner: prigioniero
- convict: detenuto
- colony: colonia
- increase: aumentare
- encourage: favorire
- monarch: monarca
2 Abbina le date agli eventi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st century</th>
<th>1770</th>
<th>1783</th>
<th>1788</th>
<th>1851</th>
<th>1901</th>
<th>1940s to 1960s</th>
<th>1986</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 1783</td>
<td>America becomes independent from Britain</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Australia, not Britain, begins to make its laws</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Captain Cook lands in Australia</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Explorers from Asia come to Australia</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>More than 2 million immigrants arrive in Australia</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Australian ‘gold rush’ begins</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The colonies of Australia become a federation</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The first British convict ships arrive in Australia</td>
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3 Rispondi alle domande.  
1 Why did Britain send so many convicts to other countries in the 18th century?  
2 Why did convicts stop going to America?  
3 Why did people who were not convicts come to Australia in the 19th century?  
4 Why did the Australian government want to attract immigrants after World War II?  

4 Ascolta e leggi questo inno australiano non ufficiale.

Waltzing Matilda
Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong,
Under the shade of a Coolibah tree,
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,
You’ll come a Waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,
You’ll come a Waltzing Matilda with me,
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,
You’ll come a Waltzing Matilda with me.

5 Project Prepara una presentazione orale sulla storia dell’emigrazione italiana. Leggi il brano e prendi degli appunti usando le domande per aiutarti. Parla per circa 2 minuti.  

Between 1870 and 1900, more than 7 million Italians emigrated. Most were from the north of Italy, and emigrated to other European countries. Between 1900 and 1913, more than 9 million emigrated. Most were from the south, and emigrated to North and South America.

- What were the main reasons for this mass emigration?  
- What role did the unification of Italy play?  
- What other reasons for emigration—health, poverty, social and religious differences—had a part to play in Italy’s history? How?

Look!

Assicurati di saper dire correttamente le date in inglese:
1870 eighteen seventy
1900 nineteen hundred
1906 nineteen hundred and six / nineteen oh six
1913 nineteen thirteen
between 1870 and 1900 tra il 1870 e il 1900
in 1913 nel 1913
(in) the nineteen fifties (negli) anni Cinquanta
(in) the 19th century (nel) diciannovesimo secolo
on the first of May il primo maggio

DVD 3 Puoi trovare ulteriori informazioni su Sydney, Australia nel Culture 2 del DVD e a pag. 31.